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GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP

NORTH STAR
OPINION RESEARCH

To: Interested Parties
From: Global Strategy Group & North Star Opinion Research
Date: September 2026
Re: Georgia voters want lawmakers to reform Social Security to prevent automatic benefit cuts, and lawmakers who take up this issue stand to benefit electorally

The future of Social Security is on the ballot this November. The program's trust fund is only six years away from depletion, and the U.S. Senators elected this year will still be in office when it happens. Without reforms, automatic 22% benefit cuts are coming for all beneficiaries, and voters, including those in Georgia, want lawmakers to act.

In partnership with North Star Opinion Research, Global Strategy Group conducted a phone and text-to-web survey of 2,500 voters in key Senate battleground states, including 500 likely voters in Georgia, between August 20 and August 27, 2026.

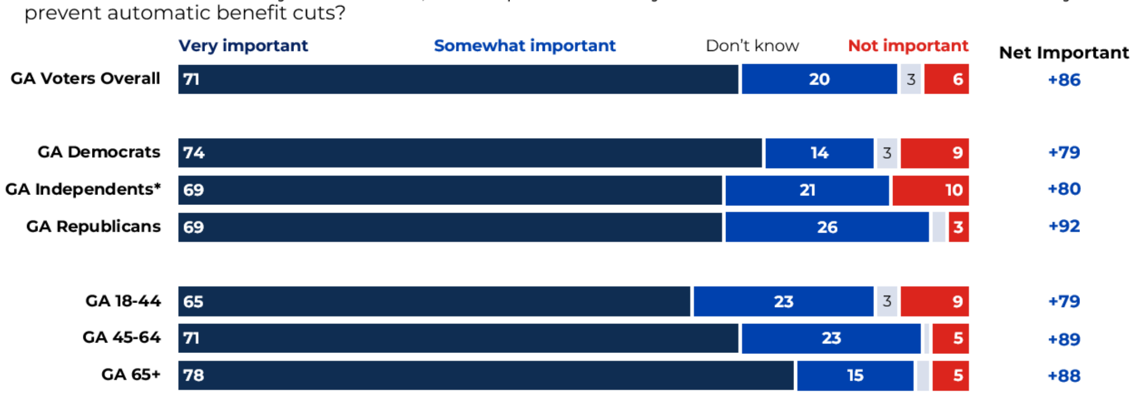
The survey, conducted on behalf of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, finds that likely 2026 Senate battleground voters, and voters in Georgia specifically, are highly concerned about automatic benefit cuts to Social Security. Nearly all Georgia voters want lawmakers to make plans to reform the program to prevent automatic benefit cuts. What's more, voters are more likely to support lawmakers who have plans to reform Social Security, and it will be a factor in who they choose to vote for in the Senate election. Some key findings from the research are outlined below.

Key Findings

Social Security is an important issue for Georgia voters. Majorities of Georgia voters (79% important) say it is important that lawmakers have a plan to reform Social Security before they have even been informed of the automatic benefit cuts set to take place in 2032. What's more, even before Georgia voters are informed of automatic benefit cuts, nearly three-quarters say they are concerned about Social Security (73%), including half who say they are extremely concerned (50%), higher than in any other battleground state polled. Additionally, a plurality say they support reforming Social Security as we know it today (45% support/36% oppose).

Once Georgia voters are aware of automatic benefit cuts to Social Security, there is more urgency for reform. Over half of Georgia voters (54%) are unaware of automatic benefit cuts to Social Security set to take place in 2032. However, once voters are informed of these automatic benefit cuts, nearly all Georgia voters say it is important for lawmakers to have a plan to reform Social Security to prevent automatic benefit cuts. This urgency for reform spans partisanship and generational divides as well.

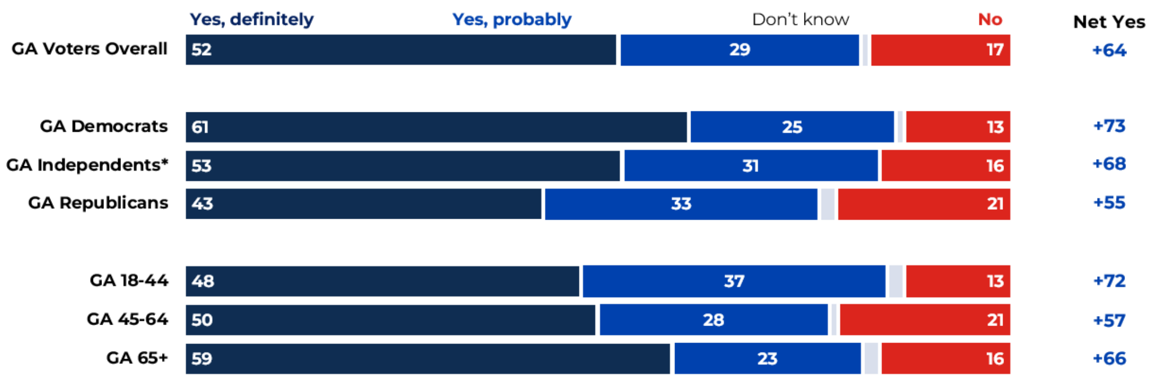
Knowing that if lawmakers do not act by 2032, there would be an automatic 22% benefit cut for all current and new retired Social Security beneficiaries, how important is it to you that lawmakers reform Social Security to prevent automatic benefit cuts?



**Indicates small sample size, results are directional.*

Candidates with plans to address automatic benefit cuts to Social Security stand to benefit. Three-quarters of Georgia voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who has a plan to reform Social Security to prevent automatic benefit cuts (78% more likely). Voters also prefer a candidate who has a plan to prevent automatic benefit cuts (81%) over one who promises not to touch Social Security (17%). What's more, majorities of Georgia voters across party and age lines say that a candidate having a plan to reform Social Security will be a factor in their Senate vote decision, including half who say it will definitely be a factor. The share of voters who say it will definitely be a factor in their vote choice is higher in Georgia than it is in the other battleground states polled.

Knowing that the U.S. Senators elected this November will be in office in 2032 when automatic Social Security benefit cuts are set to occur, is a candidate having a plan to address Social Security a factor in deciding whether you would support them in the 2026 election for U.S. Senate?



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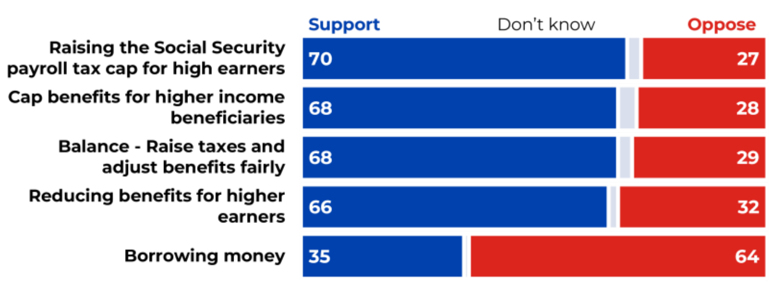
There is widespread support for several Social Security reform approaches, but not for borrowing more money. Georgia voters not only support Social Security reform, but they also back several approaches to reform across partisan and generational lines. The most popular approach is raising the payroll tax cap for high earners, though limiting benefits for higher-income beneficiaries, balancing benefit and tax adjustments fairly, and reducing benefits for higher earners are also popular. Voters are vehemently opposed to borrowing more money and adding to the national debt to fund Social Security. Moreover, when voters have to choose between keeping benefits as they are even if it means borrowing more money and adding to the debt (18%) and having a plan to stabilize Social Security to avoid having to borrow money (78%), voters overwhelmingly prefer the latter.

Support for Policy Solutions to Prevent Social Security Automatic Benefit Cuts

Full text of the policy solutions can be found in the appendix



	Net Support						
	GA Overall	GA Dem	GA Ind*	GA GOP	GA 18-44	GA 45-64	GA 65+
Raising the Social Security payroll tax cap for high earners	+43	+55	+38	+32	+29	+45	+53
Cap benefits for higher income beneficiaries	+40	+54	+48	+24	+44	+27	+50
Balance - Raise taxes and adjust benefits fairly	+39	+54	+9	+33	+25	+39	+55
Reducing benefits for higher earners	+34	+56	+60	+7	+41	+18	+47
Borrowing money	-29	-12	-52	-40	-41	-35	-9

Indicates small sample size, results are directional.

Appendix

Full Text of Policy Solutions

[RAISING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYROLL TAX CAP FOR HIGH EARNERS] Currently, all workers pay a 6.2% tax on their annual income up to a maximum income of $184,500. This proposal calls for an additional 1% tax on all incomes above $184,500, which is not taxed now.

[CAP BENEFITS FOR HIGHER INCOME BENEFICIARIES] Capping all annual Social Security benefits, so that no retired couple receives more than $100,000 per year.

[BALANCE – RAISE TAXES AND ADJUST BENEFITS FAIRLY] A balanced approach that gradually adjusts benefits over time in a fair and compassionate manner, while also increasing taxes into the program so that more benefits can be preserved and the system can remain funded for a long period.

[REDUCING BENEFITS FOR HIGHER EARNERS] Wealthier retirees generally receive more benefits, even though they likely have more ways to fund their retirements, such as through pensions and savings. This proposal would reduce the amount of benefits that the top 20% of earners receive.

[BORROWING MONEY] Congress could choose to borrow money to help fund Social Security, which would add to the national debt.

ABOUT THIS POLL

In partnership with North Star Opinion Research, Global Strategy Group conducted a phone and text-to-web survey of 2,500 likely voters in the battleground states of Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Texas between August 20 and August 27, 2026. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.4% among the sample of Georgia voters. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of likely voters are properly represented.