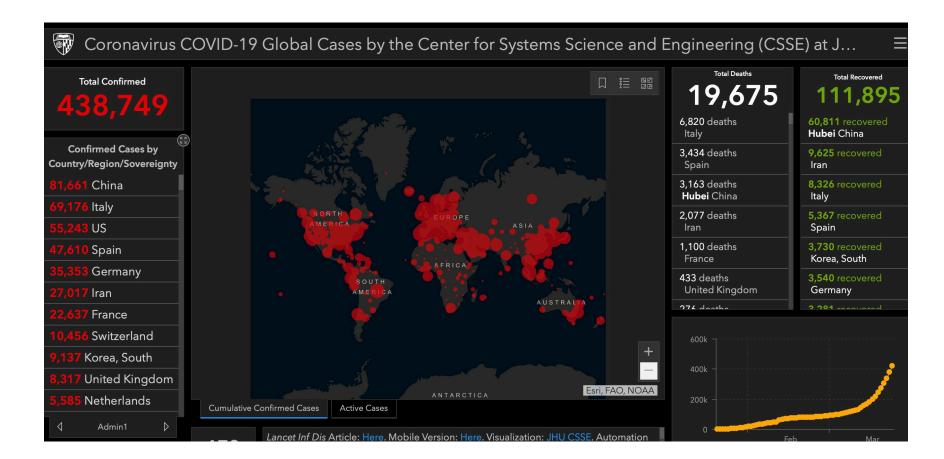
# 2020 Changes for Social Security and Medicare: What Clients Need to Know



By Elaine Floyd, CFP®

Director of Retirement and Life Planning

Horsesmouth



## Coronavirus Social Security

- SSA offices closed
  - Benefits not affected
  - Phone service still available: 800-772-1213 ("please be patient")
  - Online service still available: www.ssa.gov
  - In-person services for dire needs only; must call in advance (see SSA office locator: https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 31, 2020 Contact: HHS Press Office 202-690-6343 media@hhs.gov

#### Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to 2019 novel coronavirus.

"While this virus poses a serious public health threat, the risk to the American public remains low at this time, and we are working to keep this risk low," Secretary Azar said. "We are committed to protecting the health and safety of all Americans, and this public health emergency declaration is the latest in the series of steps the Trump Administration has taken to protect our country."

The emergency declaration gives state, tribal, and local health departments more flexibility to request that HHS authorize them to temporarily reassign state, local, and tribal personnel to respond to 2019-nCoV if their salaries normally are funded in whole or in part by Public Health Service Act programs. These personnel could assist with public health information campaigns and other response activities.



## **Coronavirus Original Medicare**

- Coronavirus testing no deductible or coinsurance
- Telehealth services covered under Part B, subject to usual deductibles and coinsurance (may be covered under supplemental insurance)
- Hospitalizations and medically necessary services covered as usual under Parts A and B

## **Coronavirus Part D plans**

- Under public health emergency Part D drug plans must
  - Cover formulary Part D drugs picked up at out-of-network pharmacies when you cannot be expected to pick up Part D drugs at an in-network pharmacy
  - Remove restrictions that stop you from getting a refill too soon
  - Cover the maximum supply of your refill if you request it

## **Coronavirus Medicare Advantage plans**

- Must cover everything Original Medicare does but can do so with different costs and restrictions
- During public health emergency Medicare Advantage plans must:
  - Allow you to receive health care services at out-of-network doctors' offices, hospitals, and other facilities
  - Charge in-network cost-sharing amounts for services received out of network
  - Waive referral requirements
  - Suspend rules that require you to tell your plan before you get certain kinds of care or prescription drugs, if failing to contact the plan ahead of time would limit your access to care
  - Cover the maximum supply of your refill if you request it

#### What's new for 2020

- Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)
- New earnings test thresholds
- New taxable wage base
- New bend points: higher PIAs for maximum earners
- Window closing for restricted application
- Part B Medicare premiums, new IRMAA thresholds
- The latest Social Security reform proposals



#### 1. Social Security cost-of-living adjustment

- Checks going up by 1.6%
- May be partially offset by Medicare premium "catchup" for those with low benefit amounts
- All PIAs raised by COLA, whether or not benefits have started

#### 2. Earnings test thresholds

- \$18,240 pre-FRA year
  - Benefits withheld \$1 for \$2
- \$48,600 FRA year
  - Benefits withheld \$1 for \$3
- First-year monthly earnings test
  - \$1,520 pre FRA
  - \$4,050 FRA year

#### 3. Maximum wage base for 2020: \$137,700

- Additional earnings (or lack thereof) may affect the PIA
- Statement estimate may be off
  - Early retirees: send to Retirement Estimator
     (www.ssa.gov/estimator) or ballpark \$100-\$200 less than statement shows
  - Continued earnings make a bigger difference for clients with less than 35 years of earnings (but later earnings always count for more than earlier earnings so everyone who works can improve their benefit)

#### 4. New indexing factors and bend points

- Average wage index up 3.62%
- Higher PIA for maximum earners turning 62 in 2020



# Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME) for baby boomer born in 1958

## Maximum earnings since 1980

\$4,487,212 in total indexed earnings ÷ 420 months = \$10,683 AIME

Year	Age	Nominal Indexing earnings factor		Indexed earnings	
1980	22	25,900	4.1671768	107,929.88	
1981	23	29,700	3.7860612	112,446.02	
1982	24	32,400	3.5885059	116,267.59	
1983	25	35,700	3.4218111	122,158.66	
1984	26	37,800	3.2318298	122,163.17	
1985	27	39,600	3.0997634	122,750.63	
1986	28	42,000	3.0104111	126,437.27	
1987	29	43,800	2.8299336	123,951.09	
1988	30	45,000	2.697098	121,369.41	
1989	31	48,000	2.5943765	124,530.07	
1990	32	51,300	2.4798293	127,215.24	
1991	33	53,400	2.390737	127,665.36	
1992	34	55,500	2.2735925	126,184.38	
1993	35	57,600	2.2542058	129,842.25	
1994	36	60,600	2.1952863	133,034.35	
1995	37	61,200	2.1106823	129,173.76	
1996	38	62,700	2.0122714	126,169.42	
1997	39	65,400	1.9013272	124,346.80	
1998	40	68,400	1.8067636	123,582.63	
1999	41	72,600	1.7113907	124,246.96	
2000	42	76,200	1.6217102	123,574.32	
2001	43	80,400	1.5839234	127,347.44	
2002	44	84,900	1.5681962	133,139.86	
2003	45	87,000	1.5307758	133,177.49	
2004	46	87,900	1.4627748	128,577.90	
2005	47	90,000	1.4111408	127,002.67	
2006	48	94,200	1.3491306	127,088.10	
2007	49	97,500	1.2905626	125,829.85	
2008	50	102,000	1.261542	128,677.28	
2009	51	106,800	1.2808582	136,795.66	
2010	52	106,800	1.2512841	133,637.14	
2011	53	106,800	1.2132683	129,577.05	
2012	54	110,100	1.1765306	129,536.02	
2013	55	113,700	1.1616827	132,083.32	
2014	56	117,000	1.1218609	131,257.73	
2015	57	118,500	1.0841431	128,470.96	
2016	58	118,500	1.0720291	127,035.45	
2017	59	127,200	1.0362449	131,810.35	
2018	60	128,400	1.0000000	128,400.00	
2019	61	132,900	1.0000000	132,900.00	
			Total	\$4,487,212	

ATMF \$10 683 84

#### **Example of benefit formula for max earner**

- Baby Boomer born in 1958 turns 62 in 2020
- Maximum Social Security earnings every year since age 22
- AIME = \$10,683
- PIA formula:
  - $$960 \times .90 = $864.00$
  - $$4,825 \times .32 = $1,544.00$  (\$5,785 \$960 = \$4,825)
  - $$4,898 \times .15 = $734.70$  (\$10,683 \$5,785 = \$4,898)
  - Total = \$3,142.70

PIA = \$3,142.70

Amount worker will receive at full retirement age

#### 5. Window closing for restricted application

- Strategy: Receive spousal benefit while own benefit builds delayed credits to age 70
- Phaseout: Only those born before January 2, 1954 are eligible
- Everyone eligible will be FRA by end of 2019, but strategy not expiring: can still do it up to age 70
- Remember...
  - Must not have previously filed for benefits
  - Other spouse must have filed
  - Other spouse need not be born before 1954
- See my Aug. 3, 2017 newsletter: "How To File a Restricted Application"
- Does not apply to survivor benefits



## 6. OASDI Trust Fund still growing (barely)

Trust fund balance on 12/31/18: \$2.895 trillion

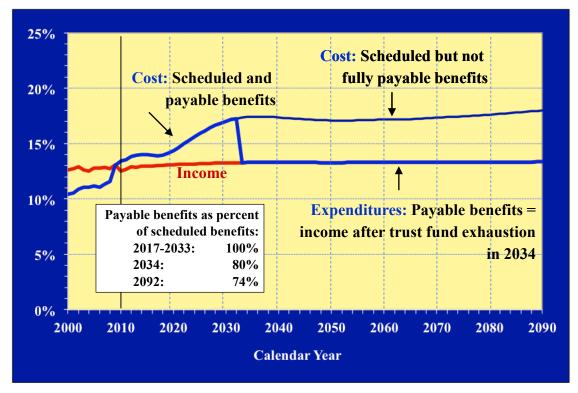
#### 2019 results

- Total income: \$1.062 trillion
- Total expenditures: \$1.059 trillion
- Net increase in assets: < \$ 3 billion</li>

Trust fund balance on 12/31/19: \$2.897 trillion



### Long-term projections: without reform, benefits fall to 80% in 2034



#### Office of the Chief Actuary's Estimates of Individual Changes Modifying Social Security

Office of the Chief Actuary

Solvency Proposals

2019 Trustees Report

Understanding Interaction Among Options

Annual Trustees Reports provide estimates of the financial status of Social Security's Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds under current law. Recent Reports call for informed discussion, creative thinking, and timely legislation to address expected future deficits. Many policy makers have developed proposals and options to address this long-range solvency problem. Listed below is a broad range of policy options that would address Trust Fund solvency and other issues related to Social Security benefits and financing. Many of these options are part of comprehensive proposals intended to restore Trust Fund solvency.

We group the options into categories, as shown below. We also provide a summary list of all options  $\nearrow$  (PDF version).

#### **Category of Change to the Social Security Program**

(Estimates based on the 2019 Trustees Report unless otherwise stated)

A: Cost of Living Adjustment F: Coverage of Employment or Earnings/Inclusion of

Other Sources of Revenue

B: Level of Monthly Benefits (PIA) G: Investment in Marketable Securities

C: Retirement Age H: Taxation of Benefits

D: Benefits for Family Members I: Individual Accounts

E: Payroll Taxes (including maximum taxable)

J: All Categories

Estimates available in HTML and PDF. PDF requires Adobe Acrobat Reader or equivalent.

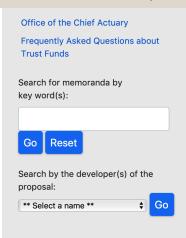
https://www.ssa.gov/oact/solvency/provisions/index.html





#### Office of the Chief Actuary's Estimates of Proposals to Change Social Security





The last 8 Trustees Reports have indicated that Social Security's Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Fund reserves would become depleted between 2033 and 2035 under the intermediate set of assumptions provided in each report. If no legislative change is enacted, scheduled tax revenues will be sufficient to pay only about three-fourths of the scheduled benefits after trust fund depletion. Policymakers have developed proposals and options that have financial effects on the OASDI Trust Funds. Many of these proposals and options have the intent of addressing the long-range solvency problem.

We have prepared memoranda for many of these proposals and options. Each memorandum provides an actuarial analysis showing the estimated effect on the financial status of the OASDI program. These memoranda are provided in Portable Document Format (PDF), which we recommend for printing (requires Adobe Acrobat Reader). Some of the memoranda are also available in HTML format. The memoranda are listed below in chronological order, most recent first. To search the list, use the search forms at left.

Date of memorandum	Developer(s) of proposal	Memorandum subject and related information
December 11, 2019	Gwen Moore	Estimates of the Financial Effects on Social Security of H.R. 5392, the "Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019," introduced on December 11, 2019 by Representative Gwen Moore (PDF version )
September 30, 2019	Richard Neal	Estimates of the Financial Effects on Social Security of H.R. 4540, the "Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act," introduced on September 27, 2019 by Chairman Richard Neal (PDF version 人)
September 18, 2019	John Larson, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen	Estimates of the Financial Effects on Social Security of the "Social Security 2100 Act," legislation introduced on January 30, 2019 by Chairman John Larson, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Senator Chris Van Hollen (updated to reflect the 2019 Trustees Report baseline) (PDF version 人)

https://www.ssa.gov/oact/solvency/index.html

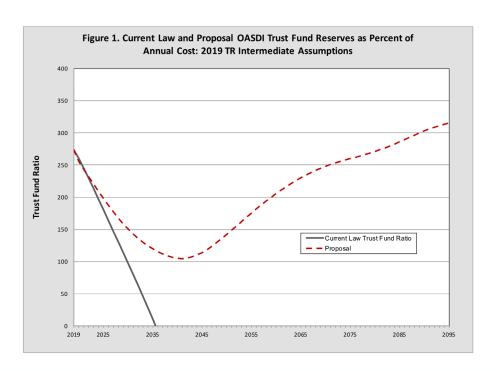


#### **Social Security 2100 Act**

- Would increase first bend point multiplier from .90 to .93
- Would base cost-of-living adjustments on the CPI-E (expected to increase COLA by 0.2 percentage points per year)
- Would increase the special minimum PIA
- Would replace current taxation thresholds to \$50,000 for single individuals and \$100,000 for couples. Would not be adjusted for inflation
- Would withhold OASDI taxes on income over \$400,000. A "second AIME" would be created to credit these earnings, with a 2% multiplier
- Would gradually increase the payroll tax rate from 12.4% to 14.8% for 2042 and later
- OAS and DI trust funds would be combined



#### **Would restore full solvency**



#### 7. New Medicare numbers for 2020

- Part B base premium: \$144.60
- IRMAA income brackets adjusted for inflation
- Medigap Plan F closed to those turning 65 after 2019—i.e., must pay Part B deductible
- Part D donut hole closed in 2020

## Monthly premiums for Parts B & D Including Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts

MAGI Single	MAGI Joint	MAGI Married filing separately	Part B monthly premium paid to Medicare	Part B income-related adjustment amount paid to Medicare	Part D monthly premium (average) paid to insurer	Part D income- related adjustment amount paid to Medicare	Total Parts B & D premium
≤ \$87,000	≤ \$174,000	≤ \$87,000	\$144.60	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$184.60
\$87,001 - \$109,000	\$174,001 - \$218,000		\$144.60	\$57.80	\$40.00	\$12.20	\$254.60
\$109,001 - \$136,000	\$218,001 - \$272,000		\$144.60	\$144.60	\$40.00	\$31.50	\$360.70
\$136,001 - \$163,000	\$272,001 - \$326,000		\$144.60	\$231.40	\$40.00	\$50.70	\$466.40
\$163,001- \$499,999	\$326,001- \$749,999	\$87,001- \$412,999	\$144.60	\$318.10	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$572.70
≥\$500,000	≥\$750,000	≥\$413,000	\$144.60	\$347.00	\$40.00	\$76.40	\$607.40

SOCIAL SECURITY

### Medicare deductibles Amount You Pay

- Part A \$1,408 per spell of illness
- Part B \$198/year
  - Waived for some preventive services such as flu shots, some mammograms and Pap smears, bone mass tests, prostate screening, diabetes tests, some others
- Part D \$435/year

#### **Part D drug plans**

- Donut hole closing in 2020, but Medicare's standard drug plan design not relevant anymore
- Find a drug plan that meets client's needs based on the medications they take
- Find cheapest drug plan if not taking drugs
- Go to www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan

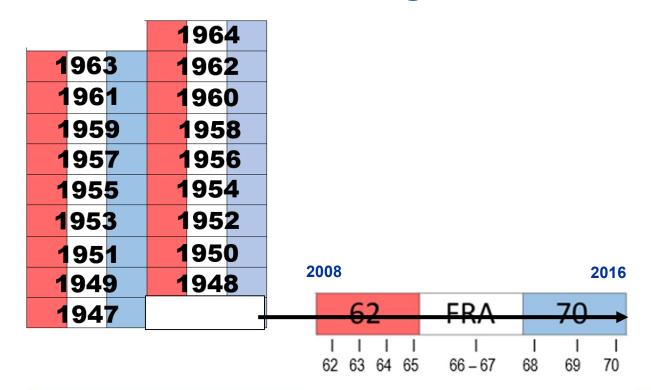
#### What to do now

- Become the go-to expert on Social Security and Medicare
  - Learn the rules
  - Teach the public
  - Recommend strategies
  - Follow up with seminar attendees

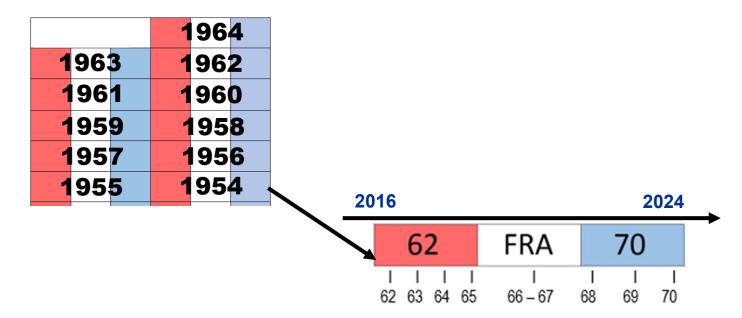
 76% of future retirees who currently work with – or plan to work with – an advisor say they would likely switch and find an advisor who could advise on Social Security. (Nationwide **Retirement Institute)** 

## The Advice Opportunity: Boomers in the pipeline

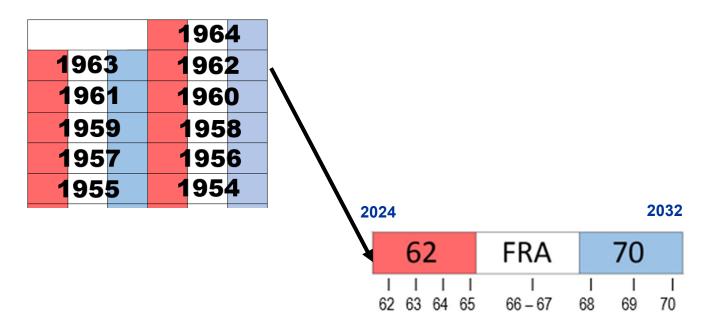
## 1946 Boomers started claiming in 2008, finished claiming in 2016



## 1954 Boomers entered the claiming pipeline in 2016, will finish in 2024



## 1962 Boomers will enter the claiming pipeline in 2024, will finish in 2032

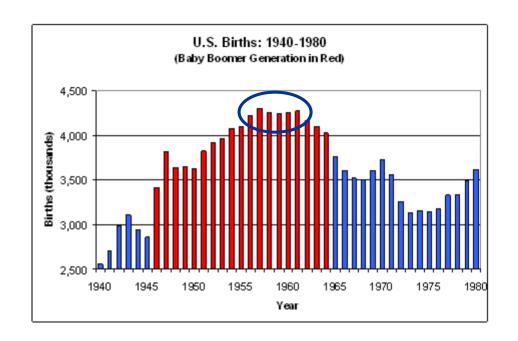


### 3 to 4 million Boomer prospects enter the claiming pipeline every year

## They need help deciding when to claim Social Security and how to manage the rest of their retirement assets

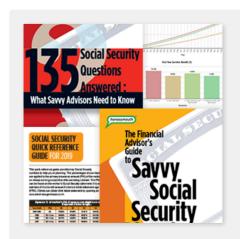


#### **Boomer spike coming**



#### **Learn Social Security**

- How benefits are calculated
- How to maximize benefits
- Rules for spousal and survivor benefits
- Benefits for divorced people
- How and when to switch from one benefit to another
- How the earnings test works in the first year



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- New and updated program materials and presentations for clients, prospects, and COIs...
- Educate clients, prospects and COIs on the new AND old rules at your workshops...





Presentations





Client Materials

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Education





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#### **Social Security Quick Reference Guide**

No more digging around on the shelves or searching on the Internet for information like:

- Estimated benefits for worker with maximum earnings
- Adjusted for early or delayed claiming
- Estimated PIAs for workers with maximum earnings

- Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- Medicare Part B premiums
- Maximum wages subject to Social Security tax





**Learn More** 

#### **Learn Medicare**

- When you can, should, or must enroll in Medicare
- How Medicare works with employer plans
- How supplemental insurance works
- Who pays the IRMAA and how you can help clients avoid it
- How to help clients transition to Medicare at retirement



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- Speak knowledgeably with clients and prospects about Medicare and health care financial planning
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Client Materials







FINRA Review





Q & A

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## **Teach Social Security and Medicare**

- Seminars
- Workshops
- Classes

- Baby boomers (general)
- Couples
- Women
- CPAs

### **Updated Social Security presentations**



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#### **Updated Medicare presentations**



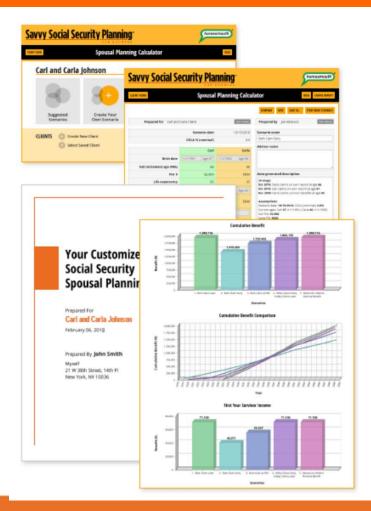
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# **Recommend Social Security strategies**

- How to maximize benefits
- When to claim
- Discuss other issues: retirement income planning, insurance, investments



# **Recommend Medicare strategies**

- When to enroll: avoid coverage gaps and lateenrollment penalties
- Which plan is best? Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage?
- Estimate health care costs, avoid or reduce the IRMAA
- Discuss long-term care



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# Thank you!