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service 1st



#### a message from the Service 1st Retirement & Investment Center

## could social security really go away?

# That may be unlikely, but the program does face financial challenges.

Will Social Security run out of money in the 2030s? You may have heard warnings about this dire scenario coming true. These warnings, however, assume that no action will be taken to address Social Security's financial challenges between now and then.

# It is true that Social Security is being strained by a gradual demographic shift.

The Census Bureau says that in 2035, America will have more senior citizens than children for the first time. In that year, 21% of us will be age 65 or older.<sup>1</sup>

As this shift occurs, the ratio of workers to retirees is also changing. There were three working adults for every Social Security recipient in 1995. The ratio is projected to be 2.2 to 1 in 2035.<sup>2</sup>

Since Social Security is largely funded with payroll taxes, this presents a major dilemma.

Social Security may soon pay out more money than it takes in. That has not happened since 1982. This could become a "new normal" given the above-mentioned population and labor force changes.<sup>3</sup>

When you read a sentence stating, "Social Security could run out of money by 2035," it is really referring to the potential depletion of the Social Security Administration's Old Age,

Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) trust funds – the twin trust funds from which monthly retiree and disability payments are disbursed. Should Social Security's net cash outflow continue unchecked, these trust funds may actually be exhausted around that time.<sup>4</sup>

Social Security is currently authorized to pay full benefits to retirees through the mid-2030s. If its shortfall continues, it will have to ask Congress for greater spending authority in order to sustain benefit payments to meet retiree expectations.<sup>4</sup>

What if Congress fails to address Social Security's cash flow problem? If no action is taken, Social Security could elect to reduce retirement benefits at some point in the future. Its board of trustees notes one option in its latest annual report: benefits could be cut by 21%. That could help payouts continue steadily through 2092.<sup>2</sup>

No one wants to see benefits cut, so what might Congress do to address the crisis? A few ideas have emerged.

\*Expose all wages to the Social Security tax or increase it at certain levels. Right now, the Social Security tax only applies to income below \$132,900. Lifting this wage cap on the tax or boosting the tax above a particular income threshold would bring Social Security more revenue, specifically from higher-earning Americans.<sup>5</sup>

\*Raise Social Security's full retirement age (FRA). This is the age when people become eligible to receive unreduced retirement benefits. The Social Security reforms passed

in 1983 have gradually increased the FRA from 65 to 67.5

\*Calculate COLAs differently. Social Security could figure its cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) using the "chained" version of the Consumer Price Index, which some economists believe more accurately measures inflation than the standard CPI. Its COLAs could be smaller as a result.<sup>5</sup>

Social Security could be restructured in the coming decades. Significant reforms may or may not fix its revenue problem. In the future, Social Security might not be able to offer retirees exactly what it does now, and with that in mind, you might want to reevaluate your potential sources of retirement income today.

For more information, please contact Gary Surak, Vice President Wealth Management and Service 1st Retirement and Investment Center Representative\* at 570.271.7596.



**Gary Surak,** Vice President Wealth Management

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Citations: \(^1\)denverpost.com/2019/03/01/ageism-colorado-tight-labor-market/\(^1\)garta(19); \(^2\)fool.com/retirement/2018/09/29/social-securitys-fast-facts-and-figures-report-hig.aspx \(^1\)garta(19); \(^3\)fool.com/retirement/2019/03/03/why-2019-is-the-social-security-year-weve-all-fear.aspx \(^1\)garta(3/19); \(^1\)taxfoundation.org/social-security-deficit/\(^1\)fool.com/retirement/2018/09/29/social-security-fix-include-expansion.html \(^1\)garta(1/19); \(^1\)garta(1/19) \(^1\)garta(1/19); \(^1\)garta(1/19) \(^1\)garta(1/19); \(^1\)g

#### grand opening

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in June at Service 1st's Elysburg Office, marking the opening of the credit union's twelfth full-service location.

This fully renovated office features a one-lane drive through, a drive-up ATM and night depository, and a state-of-the-art "Pod" station (service station). The "Pod" station is a variation of the traditional teller line, and offers a more personal experience for performing transactions.



Photo (I-r): Harold Hurst, District Office Manager, State Representative Kurt Masser; Fred Gaffney, President, Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce; Linda Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, Service 1st; Bill Lavage, President/CEO, Service 1st; Bob Garrett, President/CEO, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce; Steven Endress, Board Chairperson, Service 1st Board of Directors; John Yoder, Assistant Vice President Elysburg Market, Service 1st; Rob Gonzalez, Assistant Market Manager Elysburg, Service 1st; Amy Bordell, Member Service Representative II, Service 1st; Bobby Jones, Member Service Representative, Service 1st; Venne Bradley, Member Service Representative, Service 1st; Jeff Balestrini, Chief Lending Officer, Service 1st; Karen Wood, Chief Experience Officer, Service 1st; and Tracy Shirk, Vice Chairperson, Service 1st Board of Directors.

## 2018 annual meeting held



Service 1st Federal Credit Union held their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 17 at the Country Cupboard in Lewisburg. Over 280 members attended the meeting to celebrate the Credit Union's achievements. During the meeting, newly elected board members were announced and a number of volunteers and employees were honored for their years of service.



During Service 1st's Annual Meeting, service awards were presented to the following volunteers: Steven Endress, Chairperson, Service 1st Board of Directors, 20 years; Deborah Petretich Templeton, R. Ph., MHA, Secretary, Service 1st Board of Directors, 15 years; and David Cutright, Treasurer, Service 1st Board of Directors, 25 years. Pictured (I-r): Steven Endress, Deborah Petretich Templeton, R. Ph., MHA, and Bill Lavage, President/CEO, Service 1st. Absent from photo: David Cutright.



Service 1st also honored employees for their years of service. Pictured (I-r): Front row: Tiffany Elder, FSS Universal Agent, 5 years; Missy Peifer, Vice President Human Resources, 15 years; Sharon Carter, Loan Support Specialist, 15 years; Tammy Lytle, Loan Support Specialist, 10 years; Shawn Hays, Financial Service Coordinator/rMSR, 10 years, Middle row: Sharon Cope-Lee, Accounting Specialist, 35 years; George Hunt, Facilities and Maintenance Specialist, 5 years; Joanne Cowden, Member Service Representative, 15 years; Dawn Gilliland, Assistant Market Manager Wilkes-Barre, 5 years. Back row: Dedra Celona, Lending Supervisor, 5 years; Scott Temple, Vice President Specialized Lending, 20 years; Jay Reed, Chief Information Officer, 10 years. Absent from photo: Nicole Hoyes, Centralized Lending Coordinator, 15 years; Chad Dietterick, Information Systems Team Lead, 20 years; Valerie Carper, IS Support & Security Analyst, 10 years; and Alison Luzenski, Member Service Specialist, 5 years.



### 11 convenient locations

Corporate Center 1985 Montour Boulevard PO Box 159

Danville, PA 17821

Bloomsburg Office 327 Columbia Boulevard Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Danville Office 861 Bloom Road Danville, PA 17821

Elysburg Office (Now Open!) 196 West Valley Avenue Elysburg, PA 17824

Lewisburg Office 101 Walter Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837

Loyalsock Office 814 Westminster Drive Williamsport, PA 17701 Mifflinburg Office 52 East Chestnut Street Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Montandon Office 2613 PA-45 Milton, PA 17847

Shamokin Dam Office 3054 N. Susquehanna Trail PO Box 157

Shamokin Dam, PA 17876

Sunbury Office 1185 North 4th Street Sunbury, PA 17801

Wilkes-Barre Office 620 Baltimore Drive East Mountain Corporate Center Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711









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#### save the date

Service 1st's 8th Annual Charity Duck Derby Saturday, August 3

#### holiday closings

Employee Picnic, closing early Wednesday, July 24

Labor Day
Saturday, August 31
& Monday, September 2

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