

What Are Voters Counting On For Retirement?

As policymakers are thinking through economic proposals, it is important to have a clear understanding of what people are facing. As part of our new research on taxes and the debt, we have spent considerable time to understand personal economic concerns.

This research included a series of listening sessions with voters and a national survey (January 7-10) of 1200 registered voters. In the survey, we asked respondents about the extent to which they plan to rely on a series of eight income streams in financial plans for the future with the chart below showing the financial plans by age cohort.

Will have as part of financial plan for the future (% yes)	Overall	Millennial/ Gen Z	Gen X	Baby Boomer
Social Security	79	69	77	90
Personal savings	77	78	72	80
401K	59	68	60	48
Value of your home	56	56	51	61
Stocks and investments	54	56	48	57
Pension or annuity	48	43	41	60
Continuing to work rather than retiring	46	61	53	24
Bitcoin or another form of cryptocurrency	18	33	14	7

Among all three age groups, there was a high level of reliance on Social Security even among younger age categories that have doubts that Social Security will be there for them. There is also a significant percentage in all age categories that intend to continue working rather than retiring.

Baby Boomers: Older Americans are most reliant on Social Security (90%) and personal savings (80%). Six out of ten are relying on a pension or annuity (60%) or value of their homes (61%). One out of 4 (24%) intends to continue working rather than retiring.

Gen X: Gen X intends to rely on Social Security (77%) and personal savings (72%), followed by a 401K (60%). There is more reliance on stocks/investments (48%) and value of their homes (51%) than a pension or annuity (41%). More than half intend to continue working (53%).

Millennial/Gen Z: Despite their young ages, almost 7 out of 10 plan to rely on Social Security (69%). Personal savings are the income stream they intend to rely on most (78%), with 68% planning on a 401K. One-third (33%) intends to include bitcoin or another form of crypto into their financial plans.

Our findings indicate financial concerns given the impact of inflation that undermines their ability to save and invest for the future. The significant percentages that intend to continue working as long as they can bring to mind a quote from a Florida voter: *"I have a feeling I'm going to die behind a desk still working when I'm 98 years old. There's no such thing as retirement at this point. Yes, we're saving and saving. But cost of living is going up as you save. So there's really no chance."*

We'll have more findings from our latest research coming in Friday's Discussion Points.

Have a good week.

David & Myra