

Social Security

by Nancy Martz

Fifty four million Americans receive Social Security benefits every month. In general, Democrats see the program as sustainable and essential; Republicans and Libertarians, in general, do not. Here's a look at how individual, potential, and alphabetical 2012 presidential candidates view Social Security, according to their speeches and responses to reporters' questions; however, their responses may change depending upon the upcoming polls, and who asks, so stay tuned:

Michele Bachmann, Republican, declares love for the elderly but would cut out Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Herman Cain, Republican, sees it as unsustainable.

Roger Gary, Libertarian, sees it as a failure and would substitute IRA's and 401k's.

Newt Gingrich, Republican, would reduce taxes and substitute an IRA-like system.

Jon Huntsman, Republican, has no stance on Social Security at this time.

Thad Mc Cotter, Republican, has no clear view that any reporters can describe.

Tom Miller, Republican, would offer a voluntary opt out.

Barack Obama, Democrat, opposes privatization and the stock market methods and would raise taxes on the wealthy to support Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Sarah Palin, Republican, is ignorant and has confused even Fox News on her view.

Ron Paul, Republican, sees Social Security as a failure and would abolish it, but not overnight; he would change it to personal retirement accounts for the young (who are often stupid with their money, as I personally can authenticate, though I'm older and wiser and sorrier now).

Tim Pawlenty, Republican, would use means testing for cost of living increases and would increase the retirement age.

Carl Person, Libertarian, would phase out Social Security.

Rick Perry, Republican, sees Social Security as a Ponzi Scheme and a disease.

Mitt Romney, Republican, opposes raising taxes on the wealthy and would encourage use of the stock market (because, you know, stock markets are people, too) and raising the retirement age.

Becky Rusher, Independent, believes in the inherent goodness of people and that the wealthy will voluntarily sign over their Social Security to someone who really needs it. (Hey! Where is it?)

Rick Santorum, Republican, would change Social Security to IRA's and other private investment accounts.

R. Lee Wrights, Libertarian, would eliminate Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Vern Wuensche, Republican, would encourage those under age 55 to invest, (because, you know, they make so much extra money at Wallet Mart and Burger Belly).

So, supposing the Republicans sweep into offices at the White House , the Senate, and the House of Representatives in 2012 and hang in there for, oh, sixteen to twenty years or, as it were, a wet dream come true for Rush Limbaugh, what would our life here in America be like? Could it? Would it? Should it be something like this?

- Rules, regulations, and government programs to protect our air, our food, our water, our health, and our future would be dumped, as would food stamps, unemployment benefits, public education, and consumer safety regulations because, you know, these aren't profitable.
- More and more jobs would go overseas, which at 5 cents a day per head are profitable.
- Companies would dump toxic wastes at their convenience into your water supply or whatever's closest to save overhead.
- There would be more deregulation, excuse me...no regulation of banking, insurance, and health care.
- Roads and bridges would go to hell because, you know, we have our private jets and jet ports.
- There would be an end to environmental laws, child labor laws, minimum wage, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Any program that cuts into the profits of free enterprise capitalism would be sliced away including, but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. What about the elderly? What about the young? What about America?