

Among GOP Candidates, Not a Single Friend of Social Security

		Called Social Security A Fraud, Ponzi Scheme, or Unconstitutional	Wants to Raise the Social Security Retirement Age	Supports Some Form of Privatization
BACHMANN				
GINGRICH			?*	
PAUL			?*	
PERRY				
ROMNEY				
SANTORUM		?		

*Has not advocated raising the retirement age because they support even more radical privatization proposals

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MICHELE BACHMANN	[Social Security] “is a tremendous fraud. No company could get away with this, they’d be thrown in jail if they ever tried to do what the federal government did with people’s Social Security money.” – Fox News , February 17, 2010	Voted to raise the Social Security retirement age to 70, which would cut benefits by up to 20 percent for new beneficiaries when fully phased in. –Voted YES on Republican Study Committee Budget, Roll Call Vote 275 , April 15, 2011	“But people that are younger than [10 years away from retirement], they need to have some options in their lives, so that going forward they can have an ownership of their own Social Security, their own retirement.” – Fox News , February 17, 2010
NEWT GINGRICH	“It is a fraud and a lie the way that Congress deals with Social Security.” – Cain-Gingrich Debate , November 5, 2011	No position stated.	“Any candidate who is not prepared to give younger Americans the right to choose [a private account] has no serious plan for Social Security.” – Cain-Gingrich Debate , November 5, 2011
RON PAUL	“Technically, [Social Security is unconstitutional]. . . .There’s no authority [in the Constitution for it].” –(Fox News Sunday , May 15, 2011)	No direct position, but Paul sees it as irrelevant since he would dismantle the entire program and allow people to opt-out of Social Security. –(MSNBC Interview , April 27, 2011)	“But I want to privatize the retirement funds and put the responsibility on the individual.” –(CNN Situation Room Interview , September 8, 2010)
RICK PERRY	Social Security “is a Ponzi scheme for these young people. . . .The idea that [young people] are working and paying into Social Security today, that the current program is going to be there for them. . . is a monstrous lie on this generation, and we can’t do that to them.” – Iowa Caucus Event at the Vine Coffeehouse , 8/27/11	“If you’re a forty-five year-old or less, we’re going to move that retirement age up to sixty-nine or seventy.” – Town Hall , 9/5/11	“If only the New Dealers had been kind enough to allow workers to make their own choice about whether to participate [in Social Security]. As we know from experience, individuals would have done better on their own [with private accounts].” – Fed Up , 2010, page 61
MITT ROMNEY	“There simply is no [trust] ‘fund’ safely invested somewhere. . . . To put it in a nutshell, the American people have been effectively defrauded out of their Social Security. . . . Let’s look at what would happen if someone in the private sector did a similar thing. . . . They would go to jail. But what has happened to the people responsible for the looming bankruptcy of Social Security? They keep returning to congress every two years.” – No Apology , 2010, pp. 172-3	“Alternatively, we could gradually raise the retirement age. This does have a certain logic to it. . . .” – No Apology , 2010, p. 173	“One thing that [President Bush] proposed, and it’s a good idea, is to take some of that money, or all of that surplus [Social Security] money and allow people to have a personal account.” – Town Hall , 6/5/2007
RICK SANTORUM	No position stated.	“I proposed [raising the retirement age] back in 1994, and I think that’s an option that has to be on the table.” –(Meet the Press , June 12, 2011) “We’re in the middle of a phase-up [in the retirement age] to age 67. . . . We need to continue to do that.” –(Remarks at Lancaster, SC , September 13, 2011)	“Personal retirement accounts provide individuals—not the government—with control and ownership. And they hold the promise of a greater return for future generations than what they are promised by today’s Social Security system.” –(The Hill , March 1, 2005)