

Social Security

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes Social Security to be one of the nation's most effective and successful programs, without which nearly half of America's seniors would be living in poverty. For some reason the term "entitlement" has come to be a "dirty" word insinuating that Social Security is some sort of handout. Nothing is further from the truth. After spending a lifetime paying into the Social Security system, we citizens of Augusta County are not receiving a "hand-out" but are absolutely entitled to receive our Social Security benefits upon retirement. This program, originally enacted by the Democratic Party, must be preserved and strengthened and would cease to exist without Democratic Party support. Any efforts to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or reducing earned benefits must be stopped in their tracks. The solution, rather, is to increase payments into the Social Security Trust Fund. Currently, this Trust Fund is viable and secure. The fund has not been "raided" but consists of Treasury Bills backed by the "full faith and credit" of the US Government. However, to preserve future Social Security benefits, Congress must act now to increase receipts into the fund by removing the salary cap that now restricts the collection of SSA payroll taxes on our wealthiest citizens.