



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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August 25, 2025

NYSARA Biennial Election Convention Early Registration Deadline is Today (postmarked)

Date: September 4, 2025 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Place: NYSUT Headquarters - 800 Troy Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY

Purpose: Elect NYSARA Officers 2025-2027, get information issues both nationally and Statewide that have impact on Seniors and actions to take that have impact. Hearing from people who impact Seniors.

Keynote Speaker: Robert Roach, President National ARA

Other Speakers: Ravi Reddi, Senior Staff for US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (confirmed), Greg Olsen Acting Director NYS Office for the Aging (confirmed) and NYS Senator Patricia Fahy (requested)

Declared Candidates for NYSARA Office:

President - Barry Kaufmann (NYSUT)

Vice President - Paul Schuh (UAW)

Secretary - Opportunity

Treasurer - Gary Lanahan (CSEA)

Nominations will be taken from the floor. Voting will be by weighted vote as per bylaws. Any nominee **MUST** be present and representing a Statewide dues payer.

To get a registration form [click here](#)

Early Registration Deadline: Postmarked by TODAY (8/25/2025)

Late Registration or Onsite Cost is \$25 instead of \$15

Trump Administration Worker Attacks

More than 400,000 federal workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) had their union contracts ripped away from them.

That was just the first domino to fall under the Trump administration's anti-worker attacks. Now, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of Agriculture have canceled at least 27,000 more government workers' collective bargaining agreements. And we know they won't stop there.

There is a bill in Congress to restore these workers' union rights, and our calls of support have made a difference. A majority of members in Congress—Democrats and Republicans—support the Protect America's Workforce Act, and your representative in New York signed the discharge petition that will bring that bill to the floor for a vote.

Will you take a moment to thank your representative for standing with workers and signing the Protect America's Workforce Act discharge petition?

When President Trump issued his executive order to end federal workers' collective bargaining rights, the White House explicitly said that it was taking action against unions for "fighting back" against the administration's illegal and anti-worker policies. That's retaliation, plain and simple.

These contract terminations aren't just union-busting—they are Constitution-busting. The administration is clearing the way for more political interference in nonpartisan jobs that keep our basic government services running, and it's sending a clear and chilling message that free speech doesn't exist anymore. Workers who refuse to fall in line will be silenced.

The labor movement will continue to fight this all-out assault on workers with everything we have—and we want to thank the members of Congress who have our backs.

NYS Comptroller DiNapoli Targets Need for More Effective Senior Services Across NYS

A new report from NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli urges New York State to better focus its efforts on a wide range of Senior services and programs amid federal government uncertainty.

DiNapoli's report shows that the state needs to begin with better data on the needs of individuals and where there are gaps in services and how they can be most cost-effectively addressed. New York's population of individuals over age 60 is projected to reach 5.5 million by 2030.

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/press/releases/2025/08/dinapoli-amid-federal-funding-uncertainty-state-must-focus-programs-aid-seniors>

New York City Chapter of NYSARA

**Celebrating and Defending 90 Years of Social
Security and Healthcare
"Protect Our Checks" Forums
Staten Island and Manhattan**





The New York City Chapter of NYSARA, led by President Barbara Waldmann, participated in two “Protect Our Checks” events last weekend to mark the 90th anniversary of Social Security which is presently depended on by 68 million Americans. Both gatherings were sponsored by Metro New York Health Care for All and organized by Director Mark Hannay.

On Saturday, August 16, a rally was held outside the Social Security Office on Staten Island to protest the devastating cuts put in place by passage of the “Big ‘Ugly’ Bill”. Mark Hannay addressed the crowd about the history of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He also underscored the importance of organizing and protesting these rollbacks. Shaun O’Connell, representing the American Federation of Government Employees, reviewed the paralyzing effects that budget cuts and staff reductions have already had on Social Security services. He predicted that the situation will only become more dire in the future. Barbara Waldmann warned that evidence from the present administration points to their ultimate goal of privatizing Social

Security. The rally ended on an upbeat, with participants enjoying cupcakes to celebrate the 90th birthday of Social Security. Metro New York Health Care for All organized a forum held at 1199 SEIU headquarters in Manhattan on Monday, August 18, that was also co-sponsored by NYSARA and other NYC groups. Presentations were made by three panels.

The introductory panel was chaired by Director Mark Hannay and included representatives of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Adrian Espillat of Manhattan who spoke of the deleterious consequences of the new federal tax cut law and their efforts to combat its negative effects. Also on that panel was Barbara Waldmann who was asked to relate a personal story about the importance to her family of the social safety net of the “three-legged stool” of Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. She shared the critical contribution that these programs played when her elderly mother who suffered from Parkinson’s disease was widowed unexpectedly and then was able to live out her remaining years in security and dignity.

A second panel consisted of recipients of Social Security and its critical contribution to their daily lives. They were senior citizens, disabled persons, and also representatives of community workers who supported the dependent survivors of deceased workers, among others.

The final panel included academic experts who added their expertise and research to the event, and who followed up with a lively question-and-answer period. Participants were exhorted to continue their ongoing activism in support of Social Security and Healthcare.

The culmination of the event was an upbeat serenade to Social Security and refreshments that included birthday celebration cupcakes.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT JUST A POLICY, IT’S A PROMISE.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, he made a promise to create a level playing field for all Americans, ensuring a basic level of financial security for working people. Everyone on Social Security is someone, and someone who somebody knows. Now, on the 90th anniversary of its signing, Unrig Our Economy, along with partners and

advocates across the country, will hold rallies to demand that Congress protect what families have paid into and worked hard for — to Protect Our Checks.

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR WORKING PEOPLE, NOT BILLIONAIRES.

Right now, Republicans in Congress are moving forward with an agenda that guts programs working people rely on to afford basic life necessities like food and health care, all to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. This, along with ongoing attacks on Social Security, makes it clear what congressional Republicans' priority is: To take from working families to give to the rich. While their plan to gut Medicaid and SNAP passed, it's not too late for them to start protecting Social Security, a lifeline for so many Americans.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS A HARD-EARNED LIFELINE FOR MILLIONS. NOT A HANDOUT.

Over [73 million people](#) in the United States rely on Social Security. It is a pillar for many people, supporting not only retirees but also people with disabilities and working-class families. It helps pay rent, buy groceries, and put kids through school. It's a right that millions have paid into and have earned. Republicans in Congress must not put millions at risk — and take away this hard-earned right — just to give their billionaire buddies another tax giveaway.

THE THREATS TO SOCIAL SECURITY ARE REAL — AND WE REFUSE TO STAY SILENT.

The Trump administration and Elon Musk's DOGE have forced Social Security Administration offices to make staffing cuts, freeze funding, and undermine vital services. They are making local Social Security offices inaccessible and replacing humans who answer the phones with an [AI chatbot](#), with an impact on thousands of people across the country. Yet, Republicans in Congress have done nothing to protect their constituents and ensure that the resources on which they rely are protected. Making local Social Security Administration offices inaccessible

will impact thousands of people across the country, hurting their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

THE TIME IS NOW TO MAKE THIS MESSAGE CLEAR.

With a Republican majority in Congress and the White House, threats to cut Social Security are growing. Reports suggest that the system's trust fund may [run dry by 2034](#), leading to a 15-20 percent reduction in benefits. This issue stems from congressional Republicans allowing corporations and the ultra-wealthy to avoid paying their fair share. Republicans are pushing to dismantle a system that provides this hard-earned source of income to many, while billionaires keep paying less. It's essential to raise awareness of the negative impact of cutting Social Security, advocate for higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations, and fight to keep Social Security viable for future generations.

WE ARE ORGANIZING TO PROTECT WHAT'S OURS.

On August 16, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Social Security, people across the country will gather for the Protect Our Checks day of action. Rallies in communities nationwide will send a clear message: We will not allow Social Security to be at risk, while billionaires are rewarded with even more handouts. We demand Congress protect our checks — our future. The time to act is now.

WE WON'T BACK DOWN.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935 he called Social Security “a cornerstone in a structure which is being built, but is by no means complete.” We are here to build on his legacy from 90 years ago. Protecting Social Security is about protecting what we've earned. We will fight to defend it, just like we have for 90 years.

MEDICARE REMINDER

Outpatient physical, speech, and occupational therapy

Medicare Part B covers medically necessary outpatient therapy services, including:

- Physical therapy

- Speech-language pathology services
- Occupational therapy

If you meet Medicare's eligibility requirements, Medicare covers therapy on a temporary basis to improve or restore your ability to function, or on an ongoing basis to prevent you from getting worse. Medicare should cover your outpatient therapy regardless of whether your condition is temporary or chronic.

Eligibility

You are eligible for Medicare coverage of outpatient therapy services if:

- You need skilled therapy services, and the services are considered safe and effective treatment for you
- Medicare defines skilled care as care that must be performed by a skilled professional, or under their supervision
- Your doctor or therapist creates a plan of care before you start receiving services
- Your doctor or therapist regularly reviews the plan of care and makes changes as needed

You can get therapy services in a doctor's office, outpatient hospital setting, rehabilitation agency, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF), public health agency, or your home. You can also get therapy while at a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or through a home health agency.

However, you may need to meet additional eligibility requirements to receive Medicare SNF or home health coverage.

Costs

Original Medicare covers outpatient therapy at 80% of the Medicare-approved amount. When you receive services from a participating provider, you pay a 20% coinsurance after you meet your Part B deductible (\$257 in 2025).

CBO: Republican Tax Law Will Trigger Medicare Cuts Unless Congress Acts

The recently passed Republican tax and budget law will automatically slash \$491 billion from Medicare between 2027 and 2034 unless Congress takes action, [according to a new report](#) from the Congressional Budget Office.

Payments to all Medicare providers, prescription drug, and Medicare Advantage plans will be cut by four percent and some providers will likely limit services for Medicare beneficiaries or even stop treating Medicare patients altogether if funding is not restored.

Congress would have to waive the Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budget rule, which requires lawmakers to implement across-the-board cuts when the federal deficit reaches a certain threshold, in order to prevent severe cuts in Medicare funding. The Republican tax law will increase the federal deficit by at least \$3 trillion.

“Republicans knew their tax breaks for billionaires would force over half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts — and they did it anyway,” said House Budget Committee Ranking Member Rep. **Brendan Boyle** (PA) [in a statement](#). “American families simply cannot afford Donald Trump’s attacks on Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare.”

The Republican budget law [also weakens](#) Medicare drug price negotiation, gives a \$5 billion windfall to the pharmaceutical industry, and speeds up Medicare’s insolvency date by a year, decreasing it from 2033 to 2032.

“If this isn’t fixed, the consequences for seniors will be dire. Medicare beneficiaries can’t afford to pay more for prescription drugs or lose critical health care services because Congress refuses to act,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Please urge your representatives and senators to stop these cuts before they affect everyone’s care.”

ACTION NEEDED: [*Click here to tell members of Congress to pass legislation that waives PAYGO rules as soon as possible.*](#)

President Trump Renews Attacks on Voting by Mail

On Monday, President **Donald Trump** [announced on](#) social media that he plans to revive efforts to get rid of mail-in voting, saying that he will sign an executive order to prohibit mail-in ballots and some voting machines. He also continued to spread misinformation about voting, falsely claiming that the United States is the only country that uses mail-in voting.

White House Press Secretary **Karoline Leavitt** later [walked back](#) the president's comments, suggesting that the Administration would pursue a legislative path on mail-in voting rather than an executive order. Such an overhaul would spur an uphill legal battle, since the U.S. Constitution only allows states to set voting requirements – including policies related to voting by mail.

Mail-in voting [has experienced a surge](#) in popularity since the beginning of the pandemic, accounting for 43 percent of ballots cast in 2020 and 31 percent of ballots cast in 2024. Older Americans are especially likely to vote by mail, with between 40 and 55 percent of voters aged 65 and older casting mail-in ballots in [2020](#) and [2022](#).



"Seniors should be able to exercise their right to vote in the manner that works best for them. They should not have to jump through unnecessary hoops in order to cast their ballots," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Eliminating or restricting mail-in voting will not make elections more secure – it will just cause chaos and make it harder for older and vulnerable Americans to vote. The Alliance has led the charge to protect voting rights, both via advocacy and lawsuits in court, and we are prepared to fight this latest attack."

Elder Fraud Scams Are Growing More Complex and Digital

A recent study shows that scammers are [becoming increasingly](#) sophisticated with their tactics, resulting in more complex and tailored approaches crafted to fit victims' personal data and circumstances.

Scammers are also making initial contacts via digital platforms more frequently, including social media sites like Facebook.

Phone calls, email, and social media are the most common channels for scammers to use to initially contact victims, with phone calls accounting for 20 percent of traditional media scams and email and social media accounting for 19 and 21 percent of digital media scams respectively.

The study indicated that fake eCommerce scams are of particular concern for older generations. Seniors are three times more likely to be impacted by eCommerce fraud initiated via online platforms and digital marketplaces.

Scams are also becoming more international in scope. In one instance, a group of thirteen scammers based in the Dominican Republic were charged with [running a call center](#) that defrauded 400 seniors across the U.S., resulting in a total loss of more than \$5 million. The fraudsters tricked victims into giving them money by pretending that their grandchildren or other close family members were in danger, engaging in a more complex version of the “grandparent scam.”

“If a deal seems ‘too good to be true,’ it generally is,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Legitimate business representatives will not contact consumers out of the blue. Seniors and their loved ones can help stop scammers in their tracks by researching online sellers and sticking with trusted retailers when shopping online.”

KFF Health News: Breaking Down Why Medicare Part D Premiums Are Likely To Go Up **By Julie Appleby**

Medicare enrollees who buy the optional Part D drug benefit may see substantial premium price hikes — potentially up to \$50 a month — when they shop for next year’s coverage.

Such drug plans are used by millions of people who enroll in what is called original Medicare, the classic federal government program that began in 1965 and added a drug benefit only in 2006. The drug plans are offered through private insurers, and enrollees must pay monthly premiums.

It's not known whether insurers will pursue the maximum increase allowed, as premium prices for next year won't be revealed until closer to open enrollment, which starts Oct. 15.