



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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The Monday Alert is published weekly by NYSARA. If you received a forwarded copy and would like to join our mailing list, email NYSARA at president@newyorkstateara.org with your name, email address and your home zip code.

We will not share your information outside of NYSARA.

NYSARA's Stop the Scam Initiative Gains Momentum as Usual Social Media Challenges Become More Relevant Week by Week - Learn More About Protecting Yourself and Others

NYSARA's continuing Stop the Scam initiative is gaining momentum with its focus on providing seniors across New York with a better understanding about how Artificial Intelligence technology is supercharging online scams putting consumers at greater risk with the complicity of the Social Media Platforms.

In addition to helping individuals better protect themselves from growing risk, NYSARA and the national ARA are seeking commonsense measures to ensure the Big Data companies are accountable for their role in exposing individuals to online risk.

Social Media is largely unregulated.

Two related stories made news this week. In the first, Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms settled a multibillion dollar lawsuit and agreed to change practices that lead to online addiction: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/26/technology/meta-settlement-social-media-addiction-lawsuit.settlement>

In the second, Microsoft founder Bill Gates authored an essay expressing alarm at the potential harm that could be caused by unregulated Artificial Intelligence in an

environment without guardrails: <https://www.gatesnotes.com/a-turbulent-ai-era-and-critical-choices-to-make>

Both of these issues connect directly the Stop the Scam campaign.

NYSARA is building a network of presenters statewide who can present the program in their local communities to union and other senior audiences. If you would like to volunteer to become a Stop the Scam Presenter, email president@newyorkstateara.org.

An online orientation session is being planned for early this fall and additional presenters are needed in all parts of the state.

Remember, those elected in the midterms may very well be determining the long term fate of Social Security...

NYS AFL-CIO Endorsements 2026

For Governor Kathy Hochul (D)

For NYS AG Letisha James (D)

For NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (D)

Congressional Endorsements

NY-2 Andrew Garbarino (R)

NY-3 Tom Suozzi (D)

NY-5 Gregory Meeks (D)

NY-6 Grace Meng (D)

NY-7 Claire Valdez (D)

NY-8 Hakeem Jeffries (D)

NY-9 Yvette Clarke (D)

NY-12 Michah Lasher (D)

NY-14 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D)

NY-15 Ritchie Torres (D)

NY-16 George Latimer (D)
NY-17 Cait Conley (D)
NY-18 Pat Ryan (D)
NY-19 Josh Riley (D)
NY-20 Paul Tonko (D)
NY-21 Blake Gendebien (D)
NY-22 John Mannion (D)
NY-23 Aaron Gies (D)
NY-24 Alissa Ellman (D)
NY-25 Joseph Morelle (D)
NY-26 Tim Kennedy (D)

Note: NYSARA has endorsed Kathy Hochul for Governor, Letisha James for Attorney General and Tom DiNapoli for Comptroller. The ARA has NOT yet endorsed in any Congressional race.

Ignore the Distractions - Know the Facts and Exercise Your American Right to Register and Vote This Fall

There has been a lot noise and distraction about voting rights and the consequential upcoming Election, especially around the issue of mail ballots. You can expect a lot more of it between now and November and you can be sure that much of it is purposefully intended to confuse.

You should ensure and protect your right to vote by knowing the facts and you can always get valid information from the NYS Board of Elections with links to your County Board of Elections: <https://elections.ny.gov/>

But here's what you need to know right now:

Register - Be sure that you and your family members registered to vote. Individuals who have moved or changed address since the last election may need to re-register. You can do so online up to 15 days prior to Election Day.

You can also encourage others, family, friends and neighbors to register and vote to be sure that their ballot is counted and their voice is heard.

Make a Plan to Vote -

New York also has both absentee and early voting by mail if you request ballots (You can return your ballots directly to your county board of elections office or by mail). You can also cast your ballot via in-person early voting or your ballot in your local Voting place on Election Day Nov. 3.

Casting your ballot is a fundamental right of American Democracy. Don't take it for granted!

New AFSCME Leadership Take Oath of Office

Patrick Moran was elected as AFSCME International President. Nicole Pollard was elected International Secretary-Treasurer at the International Union's 47th National Convention.

Moran previously served as an AFSCME International Vice President and Maryland Council 3 President, where he has successfully worked to expand collective bargaining for Maryland public service workers, strengthen safety standards, and build power by growing membership.

Moran and Pollard ran as a ticket, pledging to build on that momentum by investing in bold, direct member engagement and mobilization. Their platform focused on growing worker power, protecting and expanding public services, and improving the lives of working people by taking on the fights ahead.

Nicole Pollard, an AFSCME member for 23 years, served as AFSCME International Executive Assistant to former President Lee Saunders. She makes history as the first African American woman to become AFSCME's Secretary-Treasurer.

Meet AFSCME's new leadership team: <https://afscme.org/blog/afscme-members-elect-organizer-and-proven-fighter-patrick-moran-as-next-president/>

Also at the AFSCME Convention, CSEA Capital Region President Shana Davis was elected one of CSEA's three International Vice Presidents of AFSCME joining CSEA President Mary Sullivan and CSEA NYC Regional President Lester Crockett. CSEA is the largest affiliate of AFSCME.

Supreme Court Allows Administration to Move Forward with Plan to

Restrict Mail-In Voting, But Legal Challenges Remain

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an emergency opinion [allowing](#) the Trump Administration [to pursue](#) mail voting restrictions outlined in an executive order President **Donald Trump** signed in March.

The order requires state election officials to provide the United States Postal Service (USPS) with a list of voters who requested mail-in or absentee ballots and would prohibit USPS from sending mail ballots to anyone not on the list. USPS officials [released final regulations](#) detailing how the agency will carry out the executive order late last week.

But details about whether and/or how the rule will impact the midterm elections are still murky. On Tuesday, a federal judge in Massachusetts [found that](#) by finalizing the USPS rule, Administration officials violated a previous court order blocking implementation of mail voting restrictions nationwide. The judge [issued a temporary restraining order](#) on Thursday preventing USPS from making any major changes to mail voting while litigation is ongoing. That decision means that parts of President **Trump**'s executive order will be blocked for at least 14 days. 24 states and the District of Columbia have also already [filed a new lawsuit](#) that seeks to block the USPS rule from taking effect.

Previously, 19 state Alliances went to court to prevent the Administration from accessing sensitive voter data and protect mail voting in their states.

Administration officials have signaled that in addition to trying to limit mail voting, they also intend to increase observation at the polls this November. Last week, the Department of Justice [announced](#) that it plans to deploy 1,000 election monitors.

“Injecting uncertainty this close to the midterms and making it harder for Americans to cast their ballots won’t make elections more secure,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Every eligible voter should be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote without worrying that they will have to face unnecessary barriers while casting their ballots.”

80 Percent of Americans Say the U.S. is Headed Toward a Retirement Crisis

The number of Americans who believe the United States will face a retirement security crisis has increased dramatically, going from 67 percent in 2020 to 80

percent this year, according to the National Institute on Retirement Security's ["Retirement Insecurity 2026" report](#). More than six in 10 of those surveyed also reported being concerned that they will not have a financially secure retirement.

The findings show that Americans want retirement security even as it's become more difficult to achieve. 68 percent of those surveyed said healthcare costs, inflation, long-term care, wages failing to keep pace with expenses, and debt – are making it harder to save for retirement, while 85 percent want lawmakers to prioritize retirement security as a top issue.

A majority of Americans are deeply concerned about Social Security cuts, with 76 percent worried about benefits being slashed in 2032 if Congress fails to address the looming financial shortfall.

"Americans want to be able to retire with dignity – and are alarmed that the programs they have paid for over a lifetime are at risk," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Congress must listen to the public and take immediate action to strengthen Social Security and increase benefits and ensure that health care is affordable for all Americans. Policies like raising the retirement age, or slashing guaranteed benefits are a non-starter with the American people."

New Research Challenges Idea that Medicare Advantage Results in Better Health Outcomes than Traditional Medicare

Insurance corporations often market Medicare Advantage plans as alternatives with extra benefits like vision, dental, and hearing services that result in improved health outcomes. However, [recent findings](#) question that notion. A three-year study looked at 35,000 older adults living with Type 2 diabetes; 45 percent were enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans. On average, those enrollees didn't see better health outcomes compared to their peers covered by traditional Medicare plans.

While the study doesn't give a reason for this, experts hypothesize that accessibility could be a factor. In theory, Medicare Advantage offers more supplemental benefits than traditional plans, but these benefits are often less generous than they first appear, resulting in restricted networks, large fees, or other unanticipated barriers that prevent beneficiaries from being able to access them.

“This new data is worth paying attention to,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Medicare Advantage plans [cost taxpayers](#) 14 percent more per beneficiary than traditional Medicare this year, which translated into \$76 billion more in federal spending. Insurance corporations should be held accountable when they fail to deliver the better health outcomes promised with these plans.”

[Click here to send a message to your members of Congress demanding that they vote against any fiscal commission legislation.](#)

KFF Health News: The Medicare GLP-1 Discount Has One Big Catch: Some Sick Patients Don't Qualify
By Jackie Fortiér

In January, Jeff La Marca got a prescription for the popular weight loss drug Zepbound. But he couldn't afford the \$750 monthly price tag.

Then Medicare launched an 18-month pilot program that offers GLP-1 medications to some enrollees for only \$50 a month. La Marca thought he might finally be able to afford the drug.

“I thought, ‘Thank God, there's a path,’” said La Marca, who lives in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and has tried numerous diets and exercise regimes.

But the 68-year-old's celebration was short-lived.

His application to the pilot program was denied. [.](#)

