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Fee-Only Financial and Investment Planning

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On Course

January 30, 2018

Volume 18, #1

Welcome to the second installment of our three-part retirement series. The new year brings updates to Social Security. We want to point out some key changes that take effect for 2018.

Social Security benefits can be quite confusing -- if you need assistance navigating the changes or planning for your retirement, we are here to help you stay *On Course!*

-Jennifer Lane, CFP

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Jennifer's Hint

It's impossible to predict how changes in social security over the years of your retirement will change. Projecting that you'll live as least until age 95 in your retirement plan will protect your plan against low social security cost-of-living increases and higher tax rates. Assuming longer life will also reduce the chance that you'll outlive your money or be worried that you will.

Get more tips in Jennifer's book

Social Security

Changes to workers' paying into Social Security

- Wages subject to Social Security tax are now \$128,700 (up from \$127,200 in 2017).
- Know your full retirement age! If you were born in 1960 or later, full retirement age is 67.
- **A quarter of coverage** (or Social Security credit) got more expensive. You need to earn \$1,320 now to count one quarter. You need 40 quarters of coverage to be **eligible for full benefits**.

Changes to disability benefits under Social Security

- The income threshold has increased slightly in 2018 for those on disability earning income allowing you to make a tad more income and still qualify for benefits.

Changes to retirement benefits received from Social Security

- Social Security benefits increased two percent starting with the December 2017 payment.
- The maximum possible benefit for someone starting to collect Social Security benefits this year at full retirement age goes up \$101 per month to \$2,788 per month.
- If you claim social security before reaching your full retirement age and still work, you can earn a bit more income before the **Social Security benefit is reduced**.

Social Security Website

- Social Security is no longer mailing out paper statements.
- Make sure you have created a profile at ssa.gov.

- Setup the 2-Factor authentication on your online account.

Q&A

Q: Is there a good place for me to get quick answers on Social Security questions I have?

-- Alice, Brighton

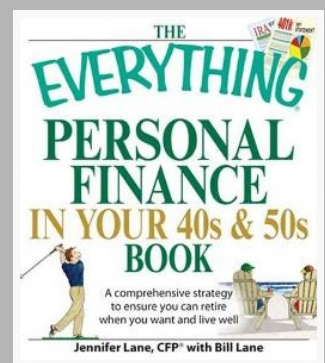
A: Alice, the USA.gov website is a good place to begin. Go to <https://www.usa.gov/about-social-security> to learn more about how Social Security works.

What's New

- **Wallethub** asked Jennifer to shed light on the unsustainable credit behavior that leads to negative results and the effects on the economy. Click [here](#) to read Jennifer's comments.
- Jennifer contributed to a **CNN Money** article "When is the Right Time to See a Financial Advisor?" Click [here](#) to read the article.
- Jennifer contributed to **The Wall Street Journal** article "The Biggest Money Mistakes We Make -- Decade by Decade." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- Jennifer recently answered NECN viewer questions about **fixing problems with their financial accounts**. Click [here](#) to watch the segment on her blog.
- Follow us on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/AskJennifer and like us!
- Jennifer appears on NECN every other Monday morning at 9:30 am in addition to her Tuesday 7:30 pm appearance.

Compass Planning Associates helps families, individuals, and small-business clients achieve financial security, knowledge, and control over their money. Our **fee-only, client-centered approach** provides education and guidance for achieving financial goals and dreams.

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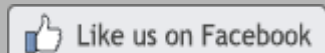


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IRS.gov

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