

Wilson Details Plan To Privatize, Eliminate Social Security

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COLUMBIA, SC - Embattled Congressman Joe Wilson confirmed in a debate Sunday that he will work to privatize and eliminate [Social Security](#) if 2nd District voters send him back to Congress.

During the debate, Wilson said that he will "reform" Social Security by putting the investments in "personal accounts" [SC ETV, 10/24/10].

Wilson's plans to privatize Social Security will put Americans' retirement savings in the hands of Wall Street bankers.

Specifically, Wilson has stated that he supports the budget proposed by Paul Ryan (R-WI). The Ryan Budget will reduce benefits for those 55 years old and younger while simultaneously raising the retirement age [<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2010/02/one-gopers-budget-vision-social-security-and-medicare-benefit-cuts.php>].

"Joe Wilson will privatize and eliminate Social Security," said Lindsay Zoeller, campaign manager for Marine Corps combat veteran and 2nd Congressional District candidate Rob Miller. "If Joe Wilson has his way, Congress will give our retirement security to the same Wall Street bankers and hedge funds that got us in this economic recession.

"Rob Miller will always protect Social Security, he will never privatize it, never increase the retirement age, or cut benefits."

JOE WILSON HAS A LONG RECORD OF TRYING TO ELIMINATE SOCIAL SECURITY

Wilson Scored Low For National Committee To Preserve Social Security & Medicare Legislative Scorecard.

According to The State, Wilson scored between 29 and 31 percent on the legislative scorecard of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. [The State, 9/15/02]

Wilson has repeatedly voted to privatize Social Security

2008: Wilson Supported Privatization Of Social Security. In responding to the South Carolina Congressional Election 2008 Political Courage Test, Wilson indicated that he supported allowing "workers to invest a portion of their payroll tax in private accounts

that they manage themselves.” [Project Vote Smart, South Carolina Congressional Election 2008 Political Courage Test, accessed 3/3/10]

2007: Wilson Voted To Protect Supporter Of Privatizing Social Security. In 2007, Wilson voted against an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill that, according to CQ, “would bar the use of funds in the bill to pay the salary of the deputy commissioner of Social Security without a Senate vote confirming the individual’s appointment.” According to the Washington Post, the amendment was intended to block “salary payments to Andrew Biggs, the new deputy commissioner of Social Security and an advocate of privatizing Social Security. President Bush installed Biggs with a recess appointment to avert Senate confirmation hearings that would examine his views on privatization.” The House passed the amendment by a vote of 231-199. [H.R. 3043, Vote #665, 7/18/07; CQ Floor Votes, House Roll Call Vote 665, 7/18/07; Washington Post, 7/22/07]

2005: Citing Tom DeLay & The Right Wing Heritage Foundation, Wilson Supported Bush Privatization Plan In Speech On House Floor. In a May 2005 speech on the House floor, Wilson said, “Mr. Speaker, over the past seventy years, Congress has tried repeatedly to fix the Social Security program. [...] On Thursday, President Bush further outlined his proposal to provide a lasting solution for Social Security. Today, the Washington Times reported that the Heritage Foundation and the CATO Institute strongly support President Bush’s proposal. Congressman Tom DeLay is correct. Unfortunately, Democrats have yet to offer any positive suggestions that would fix Social Security. Procrastination won’t solve the problem. We must act now to protect benefits for today’s retirees and strengthen benefits for future generations.” [Congressional Record, 5/3/05]

Wilson: “I Support His Vision Of Personal Accounts.” In April 2005, Wilson’s office issued a press release titled “Rep. Wilson Applauds Bush’s Vision On Social Security.” According to the release, Wilson said, “Fortunately, President Bush is now offering ideas that will provide a lasting solution to the American people. I support his vision of personal accounts, and look forward to working with him to protect benefits for today’s retirees, and strengthen Social Security for future generations.” [US Fed News, 4/18/05]

Wilson Supported President Bush’s Social Security Reforms, Including His “Vision Of Personal Accounts.”

In 2005, President Bush joined Wilson to attend a rare joint session of the South Carolina General Assembly where he pushed for Social Security reform. After the president made remarks about the need to permanently strengthen Social Security, Wilson said, “Over the past seventy years, the payroll tax has been raised 22 times in previous attempts to fix Social Security. As we now know, these proposals simply didn’t address the real challenges facing the system. Fortunately, President Bush is now offering ideas that will provide a lasting solution to the American people. I support his vision of personal accounts, and look forward to working with him to protect benefits for today’s retirees, and strengthen Social Security for future generations.” [Office of Congressman Joe Wilson, Press Release, 4/18/05; The State, 4/18/05]

Augusta Chronicle Cited Wilson As Supporter Of Privatization. The Augusta Chronicle reported, "From taxes, he jumped into Social Security overhaul, which is one of Mr. Bush's priorities during his second term. The subject is hardly foreign to some Aiken County residents, who heard about the subject in recent weeks during visits from U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson and Gresham Barrett, Republicans who support privatization." [Augusta Chronicle, 4/17/05]

Wilson Said Bush Privatization Scheme Would Be "Beneficial" To Seniors' Grandchildren. The State reported, "It was as if President Bush gave two speeches to the General Assembly Monday – one to the fans of Social security and private accounts and one to the foes. [...] Importantly, Wilson said, the president connected with his audience in the State House and beyond. 'He was talking to all generations and particularly to seniors – that this was a plan that will be beneficial to their grandchildren.'" [The State, 4/19/05]

Wilson Supported President Bush's Plan To Reform Social Security. In 2005, Wilson took to the House floor to urge Congress to support President Bush's efforts to reform Social Security. "Our current Social Security system is financially broken, outdated and unable to meet our future retirement needs," Wilson said. "President Bush is boldly leading the way to solve these problems by providing younger Americans with retirement choices and strengthening benefits for today's retirees. Reform offers younger Americans the opportunity to invest their Social Security funds in voluntary, personal accounts which will provide higher benefits and allow them to build a 'nest egg' for retirement that the government cannot take away." [Office of Congressman Joe Wilson, Press Release, 3/1/05]

2005: Wilson Supported Privatization Plan Laid Out By Bush In State Of The Union. Responding to Bush's 2005 State of the Union address, Wilson said, "For a person my age, he will safeguard benefits as promised. For younger people, there will be personal accounts that will save Social Security long-term." [The State, 2/3/05]

Wilson: Privatization "Will Help Ensure That All Americans Receive Their Hard-Earned Benefits."

According to a February 2005 press release, Wilson said, "Although it would be easy to leave tough decisions regarding Social Security to future generations, President Bush has decided to act now to fix this financially broken system. Providing retirement choices to future generations will help ensure that all Americans receive their hard-earned benefits." [US Fed News, 2/2/05]

The State: Wilson Supported Social Security Privatization. The State reported, "Wilson favors – and [2001 Democratic opponent Brent] Weaver opposes – privatization of Social Security." [The State, 12/16/01]

2001: Wilson Supported Bush Social Security Privatization Plan To Allow Workers To Invest Portion Of Payroll Taxes In Individual Retirement Accounts. The State reported, "Democrat Brent Weaver of Lexington vowed...to oppose any effort to privatize Social

Security if elected to Congress in next week's special election. [...] Weaver said Wilson will 'surely go along' with the recommendations of President Bush's commission. Wilson said he would support moves to let workers invest a percentage of their payroll taxes in individual retirement accounts." [The State, 12/11/01]