

# Notes on Social Security Reform

Occasional comments on the economics and politics of Social Security policy by Andrew Biggs.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010

## Upcoming event: "Social Security: A Fresh Look at Policy Alternatives"

On Thursday, May 27, 2010 at noon The Cato Institute will hold a Book Forum on [Social Security: A Fresh Look at Policy Alternatives](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2010) featuring the author, Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute, with comments by Andrew Biggs (American Enterprise Institute) and Eugene Steuerle (Urban Institute).

There are widespread fears about Social Security's long-term solvency, and it appears quite likely that the Bipartisan Fiscal Commission will recommend Social Security reforms. But the government projects Social Security's future finances using long-outdated methods that fail to consider key features of ongoing demographic and economic change. Employing a more up-to-date approach, Jagadeesh Gokhale argues in his new book that the program faces insolvency far sooner than previously thought.

Gokhale will describe key features from his analysis of forces shaping American demographics and the economy—and their implications for the future of Social Security—under current policies and under several prominent Social Security reform proposals. His evaluation will reveal how far different approaches would restore the program's financial health and which population groups would gain or lose in the process. Arguments over Social Security have taken place in a relative information vacuum; Gokhale will argue that the methods and measures employed in his new book are necessary to make meaningful progress in the Social Security reform debate.

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Cato Book Forums and luncheons are free of charge. To register, visit [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org), fax (202) 371-0841, or call (202) 789-5229 by noon, Wednesday, May 26. News media inquiries only (no registrations), please call (202) 789-5200.

If you can't make it to the Cato Institute, watch this Forum live online at [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org)

Posted by Andrew G. Biggs at [11:27 AM](#) 

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### About me

Andrew G. Biggs  
I am a Resident Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, where my work focuses on Social Security policy. Previously I held several positions within the Social Security Administration, including Deputy Commissioner for Policy and principal Deputy Commissioner. Prior to that I was a Social Security Analyst at the Cato Institute. In 2005 I worked on Social Security reform at the White House National Economic Council, and in 2001 I was on the staff of the President's



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Commission to Strengthen Social Security. My Bachelor's degree is from the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. I have Master's degrees from Cambridge University and the University of London and a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science. I can be contacted at [andrew.biggs @ aei.org](mailto:andrew.biggs@aei.org).

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