

## Lesson Title: Know Your Vote

### Handout #4: "The Future of Social Security" Graphic Organizer

1. Answer the questions on the left in the space on the right.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is Social Security, and how does it work?</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When was Social Security established and what was its main objective?</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the main concern young people have about Social Security?</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the Baby-Boomer population's effect on Social Security reserves over the next 75 years as they begin to retire.</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are some of the issues Gen Xers and Millennials face in trying to build up Social Security reserves?</li></ul>	

2. There are several proposals on ways to help save Social Security. Review them below and comment in the space provided on how well you think these proposals will help address the Social Security shortfall. Check with AARP “Updating Social Security for the 21st Century” (<http://www.aarp.org/work/social-security/info-05-2012/future-of-social-security-proposals.html>) and Pro-Con.org “Should Social Security be Privatized” (<http://socialsecurity.procon.org>) for information to help you evaluate these proposals.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the full retirement age</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand Social Security benefits</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partial privatization</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase payroll contribution rate</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut benefits</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase or eliminate the salary cap for taxing Social Security</li> </ul>	