

*March 18, 2013*

## **The Bedrock of Retirement**

Social Security is the bedrock of nearly every American's retirement. That's where people should start to prepare for their financial future. A couple receiving the maximum in benefits and living into old age could receive more than \$1 million in total benefits during their lifetimes. Social Security estimates that for one quarter of couples turning 65, at least one spouse will live into their 90s. Most Americans with a substantial work history are eligible to start receiving Social Security retirement benefits sometime between ages 62 and 70. The beginning age makes a big difference. Postponing benefits as long as possible can double the monthly check although you will receive that check for fewer years. Coordinating benefits between spouses is also critical. Benefits are the result of a long-term earnings record. That earnings record is something to think about long before retirement. Depending on the decisions on Social Security, one might want to make different use of retirement vehicles, take certain actions on taxes or rearrange one's investments. These have implications for pensions, estate planning, Medicare premiums and other areas. Many Americans feel that Social Security is going bankrupt and so don't include Social Security in their thinking. Without including one of their top sources of retirement income, their planning will be faulty.

**Larry Luxenberg**

Partner

[luxenberg@lexingtonave.com](mailto:luxenberg@lexingtonave.com)

### **About Larry Luxenberg**

Larry is a Chartered Financial Analyst with 28 years experience as an institutional investor and financial consultant. Larry specializes in retirement planning for Baby Boomers and strategies for maximizing benefits for Social Security. He has been widely quoted in newspapers and magazines and has appeared on CNBC and other television and radio programs.