

*As your voice in the state Senate,
I continue to value your input. If you
have an idea that you think would be
helpful in our state, please let me
know.*

Luann Ridgeway



Sen. Luann Ridgeway

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Last year we made remarkable headway in restoring the original purpose of the Social Security program by putting an end to the unfair practice of taxing your retirement benefits.

I received an overwhelming response from many of you regarding House Bill 444 and now I'm pleased to report that we have entered the next phase of the state income tax cut exemption for Social Security benefits. This is the second year of the phase-in, which ends taxation on Social Security, disability and certain other non-private retirement benefits.

Missouri was one of only 15 states in the entire country that taxed Social Security benefits as income. This made no sense. Seniors have been taxed their entire working careers to fill Social Security coffers — they should not have to pay a second time when collecting the benefits they deserve and depend on.

Thank you for providing me with your feedback, suggestions and concerns along the way as we take steps to ensure that Missouri's seniors are treated fairly.

Luann Ridgeway

What is House Bill 444?

House Bill 444 gradually phases in an exemption from state income tax on Social Security benefits, Social Security disability, and certain other non-private retirement benefits, including plans for firefighters, police officers, teachers, veterans and certain federal employees.

How much will be tax exempt?

The legislation phases in the exemption over a six-year period and is applicable up to the maximum Social Security benefit. The tax cut phase-in started in 2007 and continues this year.

2007...	20 percent
2008...	35 percent
2009...	50 percent
2010...	65 percent
2011...	80 percent
2012...	100 percent

Who will benefit?

The tax cut applies to:

- Seniors age 62 or older receiving Social Security benefits.
- Disabled citizens of all ages receiving Social Security disability benefits.
- Retired workers receiving non-private retirement benefits including firefighters, police officers, teachers, veterans and certain federal employees.

An income threshold of \$85,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for married couples applies.



Sen. Ridgeway greets Senate Doorkeeper Ken Holman while in the Senate chamber.