

# Retirement Daily

## Social Security/Medicare



### Ask Bob: Social Security, Withholding and IRAs

By Robert Powell | Feb 10, 2020 9:43 AM EST

**Question:** *I turned 70 in January and claimed Social Security. I'm still working. I read that if I combine my 2019 gross income of approximately \$36,600 plus one-half of my annual Social Security (\$13,690), I will need to pay taxes on this income, which I believe is 85%. I am wondering if I should put part of my Social Security check into a Roth IRA and/or increase my Social Security tax withholding?*

**Answer:** Under the SECURE Act, you can now continue to contribute to your traditional IRA past age 70½ as long as you are still working. That means the rules for traditional IRAs will align more closely with 401(k) plans and Roth IRAs.

As long as you have adequate earned income, which you do, you can make a maximum contribution to a traditional and Roth IRA account, says [Kathleen Campbell, founder of Campbell Financial Partner.](#)

The annual contribution limit for 2020 is \$6,000, or \$7,000 if you're age 50 or older (same as 2019 limit).

"As far as whether you should increase your withholding to account for the taxable Social Security income, that depends on how much you're having withheld from your paycheck and whether you have any other sources of income," she says. "If you've been getting a refund most years due to over-withholding, then you probably don't need to withhold any more. But just to be safe, you might have 10% withheld for taxes and then adjust the following year if that turns out to be too much."

[Read more from the Social Security Benefits Planner: Income Taxes And Your Social Security Benefit](#)

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