



Lloyd D. Watnik
We Understand Government
<http://www.lloydwatnik.com>

7487 Margerum Avenue
San Diego, CA 92120
Phone 619-857-5207
Fax 619-582-9993

Newsletter for August 2018

I'm sorry that this newsletter is late but I was waiting to see what is in store for Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries, as well as Federal employees. The good news is that not much is happening. The House is out of session until September. The Senate is mainly working on appointment confirmations.

Nothing will be done about changes in Medicare and Social Security until the House comes back in September. They will only work for five weeks and then head home for the elections. The House and Senate will work in a lame duck session for four weeks beginning the second week of November.

Federal employees will probably get a 1.9% increase in pay for 2019. It is working its way into the Omnibus Budget Bill for fiscal year 2019. The buyout payment will remain at \$25,000 for all employees except those in the Department of Defense. DOD buyouts will remain at \$40,000. When Congress gets serious about the budget in September, the biggest issues still pending for federal employees and retirees are an increase in the cost of retirement payments to 6.8% and changing the current high 3 to a high 5. We'll keep you posted.