

# SOCIAL SECURITY STRATEGY ANALYSIS

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## Your Social Security Strategy: Two Scenarios Compared

You have selected two scenarios. In **Scenario A**, you begin benefits on **Mar 2022**. Because this is **before** your FRA of 67, your benefit is **decreased by 30.0%** from your full baseline benefit of \$2,840, resulting in a monthly benefit of **\$1,988**. In **Scenario B**, you begin benefits on **Mar 2030**. Because this is **after** your FRA of 67, your benefit is **increased by 24.0%** above your full baseline benefit of \$2,840, resulting in a monthly benefit of **\$3,522**. While Scenario A starts sooner, Scenario B provides a higher monthly floor.

Your **Full Retirement Benefit** is the baseline monthly amount you would receive at exactly age 67 — your Full Retirement Age. Every month you deviate from age 67 permanently adjusts this amount up or down. The break-even analysis below identifies the latest point at which the cumulative lifetime totals of each strategy converge — when two crossover points exist, only the final (definitive) crossover is shown.

## Scenario Comparison

	Scenario A	Scenario B
Your Filing Age	62y 0m	70y 0m
Your Filing Date	Mar 2022	Mar 2030
<b>Your Monthly Benefit</b>	<b>\$1,988</b>	<b>\$3,522</b>
Spouse Filing Age	62y 0m	67y 0m
Spouse Filing Date	Sep 2024	Sep 2029
Spouse Initial Monthly Benefit	\$868	\$1,240
Step-Up Triggers When You File	Mar 2022	Mar 2030
<b>Spouse Benefit After Step-Up</b>	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$1,420</b>
<b>Combined Monthly (Final)</b>	<b>\$2,911</b>	<b>\$4,942</b>
<b>Combined Annual (Final)</b>	<b>\$34,932</b>	<b>\$59,299</b>

## The Spousal Step-Up Benefit

A key Social Security rule: the lower-earning spouse is entitled to receive the **greater of** (a) their own benefit, or (b) a **spousal benefit of up to 50%** of the higher earner's Full Retirement Age benefit (your full baseline: \$2,840). The actual spousal amount depends on both spouses' benefit levels and when each person begins collecting.

This creates a potential "Step-Up" moment: if the lower-earning spouse's own benefit is less than the spousal benefit ceiling, they initially receive their own check — then may step up to the higher spousal benefit once the higher earner begins collecting. In your household:

Your spouse's initial benefit	\$868	\$1,240
Your spouse's step-up benefit (spousal max)	<b>\$923</b>	<b>\$1,420</b>

### Cumulative Lifetime Social Security Income

The chart below shows cumulative Social Security income under each scenario from age 62 through 95. The blue line is Scenario A; the orange line is Scenario B. A red dot marks the latest break-even point — the final crossing where cumulative totals are equal. When two crossovers exist, only the later one is shown, as it determines the definitive long-term winner.



### The Break-Even Analysis

**Latest Break-Even:** As of March 2040, when you are age 80 and your spouse is age 77, the cumulative income from both scenarios will be equivalent at \$659,731. This is the final crossover point — after this date, one scenario permanently leads.

After this date, **Scenario B** yields a higher total lifetime benefit with no further reversals. Practical guidance: if you expect to live well beyond age 80, Scenario B will pay more over your lifetime. If your planning horizon is shorter or health is a factor, the earlier-starting scenario may collect more before this point.

### Decision Guidance

Condition	Recommendation
Longevity beyond age 80 (latest break-even)	<b>Choose Scenario B</b> — definitively higher lifetime total after final crossover.

Longevity uncertain or health concerns	<b>Choose Scenario A</b> — earlier start collects more sooner.
Immediate liquidity or cash flow priority	<b>Choose earlier start date</b> — maximizes near-term monthly cash flow.

**Important Limitation:** This assessment provides a snapshot of Social Security income only. It does not incorporate the future value of money, the impact of inflation, or your other investment assets. For a holistic view, proceed to the **Full Retirement Model**.

**Ready for the full picture?** The Retirement Modeler incorporates assumed rates of return, savings & account balances, inflation adjustments, and all fixed income sources — giving you a complete 30-year retirement projection. Register today to unlock the Step 11 Summary Report.

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