

The election that defines the future for letter carriers



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the future is the past—more specifically, the recent past. Let’s look at the current administration and the two houses of Congress.

“Please educate yourself and others [about the election], but most importantly, vote!”

The Trump administration has been openly hostile toward the Postal Service, postal employees and unions. The White House task force on USPS recommended drastic changes, including draconian changes or cuts, such as ending our right to collectively bargain over wages and aligning our pay increases with those of other federal employees.

Prior to 1970, postal employees received pay increases only when authorized by Congress and the president. Thousands of brave men and women walked off the job illegally in 1970 because they were fed up with that scenario. Their courageous actions resulted in full collective-bargaining rights, including the right to bargain for our wages. This administration has proposed to return letter carriers to the pre-1970 world. We reject such proposals in the strongest possible terms.

More recently, we analyzed what would have happened over the last several years if we had gotten the same raises as other federal employees rather than what NALC has negotiated in our collective-bargaining agreements. If over the last 10 years this had been the case, a letter carrier at Step O would be making roughly \$7,000 less per year. We have no interest in returning to the “collective

We are living in a pivotal moment in our nation’s history. The election that is right in front of us has become the most polarizing one in memory. There are a wide range of issues that will be decided by the results of the presidential and congressional elections. Many of these issues have divided the people of this country. Among letter carriers, the issues of the future of the Postal Service and our jobs is not divisive, but it is a crucial fork in the proverbial road.

We must start by recognizing that not only will the presidential administration shape our future this January, but so will the new Congress. The best indication of

“begging” days that our brothers and sisters fought and defeated 50 years ago.

Conversely, former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris have track records of support for letter carriers. They both strongly support a universal Postal Service, sensible postal reform that addresses the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, and our right to collectively bargain.

Every American votes based on where candidates stand on the issues that are most important to them. For most letter carriers, their job is at or near the top of that list. When the NALC Executive Council unanimously voted to endorse Vice President Biden, it was based solely on how the candidate would support letter carriers and our jobs.

Over the last two years, the House of Representatives has supported letter carriers in a bipartisan way. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has remained a champion for letter carriers. Our friends on both sides of the aisle have shown support by co-sponsoring our service resolutions, passing a bill to repeal the pre-funding mandate and, most recently, passing a bill to provide COVID-19 relief funding for USPS. NALC is proud to support our friends in both parties in their re-election efforts, and we are confident that we will maintain an overwhelming majority of pro-letter carrier members of the House.

Unfortunately, the exact opposite of what took place in the House has taken place in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has refused to bring any of the postal legislation to the Senate floor for a vote or even engage on any of the bills. Under his leadership, the Senate has done absolutely nothing for letter carriers, despite bipartisan support for our issues. The leadership in the Senate needs to change for letter carriers to achieve what we need to achieve in the next Congress. Competitive Senate races in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Montana and North Carolina give us the opportunity to do just that.

NALC has created a Voter Resource Center page on the NALC website. You can find information about your voter registration status, specifics about your state and virtual volunteer opportunities. In a world full of cable news and social media clickbait spun one way or the other to the left and the right, it is important that everyone be educated on the facts surrounding the issues that are important to them. This month’s issue of *The Postal Record* and the information on nalc.org provide facts about our jobs and this election. Please educate yourself and others, but most importantly, *vote!*