

# The Letter Carrier Political Fund— Ensuring your future



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**A** political action committee (PAC) is an organization that raises money for the primary purpose of assisting favored candidates in elections and influencing legislation, particularly at the national level. Many organizations and corporations in the United States realize the importance of having their voices and concerns taken seriously by elected officials, and therefore establish PACs to further their agendas on pertinent issues. The National Association of Letter Carriers is no different.

NALC's PAC was created in 1975. At that time, it was known as the Committee on Letter Carrier Political

Education (COLCPE). The PAC started small, but it quickly grew and proved to be a crucial component of NALC's war chest in fighting attacks on benefits for both active and retired letter carriers. NALC's ability to affect legislation proved instrumental, as exemplified by the passage of Hatch Act reform. Prior to the reform, active letter carriers were prohibited from participating in nearly all aspects of politics. This reform in 1993 "un-Hatched" active letter carriers, opening the door for our members to become active in the political process. Since that reform, our members have repeatedly proven that no union is more active and engaged in that process than NALC.

There is no question about the positive impacts that grassroots efforts, hard work and activism of NALC officers, staff and our members have made on Capitol Hill in stabilizing the Postal Service and gaining well-deserved benefits for letter carriers. There are many examples of these achievements; one can be found in the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which affords protections for letter carriers in the event of absences from work related to qualifying conditions.

**In 2015, COLCPE was changed to the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) to better reflect its purpose and mission. Contributions made to the LCPF are used to support candidates who support letter carrier initiatives, regard-**

less of political affiliation. Almost all issues that affect letter carriers are non-partisan in nature, as shown by the bipartisan support received on our legislative initiatives. Republicans, Democrats and independents alike receive our support if they support letter carriers.

Beginning in the mid- to late 2000s, there was an onslaught of attacks on the Postal Service and our jobs, fueled primarily by three economic factors that drastically affected the Postal Service's financial stability—the economic recession, the decrease in First-Class Mail volume and the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits. The LCPF was a crucial resource in our success with the long-fought battle to achieve postal reform—a monumental step forward in ensuring the financial stability of the Postal Service for the future that included a rollback of the pre-funding mandate and a pure example of our dollars at work.

**NALC is a powerful union with more than 90 percent of all letter carriers voluntarily being members. Conversely, less than 10 percent of our members contribute to the LCPF. You, our members, have a long tradition of refusing to stand on the sidelines, but rather taking the fight to those empowered to make change and demanding what is rightfully yours. To that end, NALC must win favor with politicians and provoke their interest to achieve positive legislative outcomes. In simple terms, it comes down to this—the stronger our PAC, the stronger our influence.**

The importance of the LCPF cannot be overstated. NALC has been instrumental in advancing and securing legislation of significant impact to letter carriers. However, we must not rest on our laurels but rather reinforce our commitment to strengthening our PAC to maintain a strong force in the legislative and political arenas as we continue in our pursuit to advance legislation for the benefit of letter carriers.

So, it really comes down to the stronger our PAC, the louder our voice on Capitol Hill, and the more we can get done to benefit letter carriers. So please, make your voice loud by contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. For more information or to sign to become a contributor, please go to the LCPF page at [nalc.org/pac](http://nalc.org/pac) or contact the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs at NALC Headquarters at 202-662-2833.

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until canceled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.