

# Congress introduces bills to nullify executive order limits on vote-by-mail

On March 31, President Trump issued an executive order that would severely limit vote-by-mail. Both chambers of Congress have introduced bills that would nullify this executive order and protect mail-in ballots. NALC endorsed both bills.

Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Absentee and Mail Voter Protection (Absentee MVP) Act (S. 4369) on April 22. The bill has 40 co-sponsors. In addition to nullifying the executive order, S. 4369 would ban any similar executive orders by blocking the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from sharing state voter lists, defunding the DOJ's efforts to compel production of state voter lists, enforcing the Privacy Act by barring federal agencies from improperly sharing voter data, both within the government and with outside groups, and defunding any future Department of Commerce efforts to enact partisan regulation of mail-in ballots.

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced a similar bill, the Vote by Mail Protection Act of 2026 (H.R. 8666), on May 7. The bill has 15 Democratic co-sponsors. The straightforward bill would nullify the executive order and guarantee that no government agency funds could be used to carry out this executive order.

The executive order, which is facing legal challenges, aims to severely limit mail-in ballots nationwide. The order gives the Postal Service new responsibilities much outside its typical, constitutionally mandated operations. The order grants USPS the authority to reject and refuse delivery of ballots unless states comply with newly established federal eligibility lists. The order tasks the DHS with building these state lists of voting-age American citizens.

"NALC appreciates Sens. Peters, Padilla and Durbin and Rep. Lynch's leadership in fighting to protect Americans' access to mail-in ballots," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "Voting by mail is safe, secure, and makes it easier for tens of millions of Americans to participate in our democracy. As this executive order is considered in the courts, NALC supports these bills that protect Americans' right to vote by mail."

NALC will continue to monitor these bills and any other legislation that would affect vote-by-mail and voting rights.

# NALC, USPS head to mediation on new contract

After three months of intense negotiations, NALC and the Postal Service did not reach tentative agreement on the terms of a new collective-bargaining agreement that rewards America's city letter carriers for the hard work they do day in and day out before the expiration of the current agreement. That agreement, which expired at midnight on Friday, May 22, 2026, will remain in full force and effect until a new negotiated or arbitrated agreement takes effect.

Beginning May 17, the entire NALC Executive Council, along with Headquarters letter carrier staff, legal counsel and professional staff, came together with the Postal Service's bargaining team at a Washington, DC, hotel for the entire final week of the contract in an attempt to reach a deal with USPS. A mandatory 60-day mediation period will follow, as required by statute. During that period, NALC will continue to work toward reaching a negotiated agreement with the Postal Service. After the mediation period, unresolved issues would be addressed through an interest arbitration process, which would result in a final and binding decision on the contents of a new National Agreement. The parties will select a neutral arbitrator to chair an arbitration board that would also include one management arbitrator and one union arbitrator.

NALC officers and staff have been working since August 2025 on preparation for these negotiations. At the same time, the union has been preparing to present our case in interest arbitration if necessary. All the proposed contract changes or additions were created by subcommittees of NALC Executive Council members and Headquarters staff after months of intensive preparation. The subcommittees developed our concepts and proposals after consideration of NALC's official bargaining positions adopted at national conventions, feedback from Rank-and-File Bargaining Committees and the national rap session workshop participants in Cleveland, OH, last fall, the participation of members across the country in surveys, and more.

"I'm appreciative of the arduous work of our Executive Council members, staff and professionals during the last several months of preparations and negotiations for a new collective-bargaining agreement. I am also appreciative of the input from branch leadership and all the members of NALC who have taken part in various aspects of our preparation for this round of bargaining," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

"While good-faith bargaining with our counterparts from the Postal Service has brought progress in some areas, we have not yet reached agreement on terms that we believe properly reward NALC members for their hard work and value to the Postal Service. We are confident that both sides of the table will continue to productively engage throughout the 60-day mediation period mandated by law. We will do everything we can to reach agreement but are fully prepared to use the interest arbitration process if necessary to resolve any remaining differences after the 60-day mediation period.

"We look forward to the opportunity to have in-depth discussion with our branch and state leaders on where we are and next steps in the process at our Collective-Bargaining Conference in Washington, DC, in just over a week."

The Collective-Bargaining Conference was to be held June 1-3, after this *Bulletin* went to press. Further updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

# Food drive helps those who need it most

On Saturday, May 9, letter carriers across the United States continued in their roles as caretakers of their communities by participating in the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, the nation's largest one-day food collection effort. NALC branches deliver these collections right back to local food banks, helping to feed the hungry in those communities.

"Letter carriers see how the communities that they serve are struggling, and it's with great pride that they and other volunteers contribute their time and energy to make such an impact, year after year," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We know that the recipients appreciate it."

About 1 in 5 Americans, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans, are unsure where their next meal will come from. The May food drive helps to relieve shortages of food that food pantries experience in spring after winter holiday donations have been depleted. And when summer arrives, most school meal programs are not available, so the need for food grows.

Since NALC's first national food drive in 1993, active and retired letter carriers, with the help of volunteers, have collected a total of 1.94 billion pounds of food leading up to this year's drive. Will this be the year that letter carriers' total exceeds 2 billion pounds of food? While the total for this year won't be announced until the July issue of *The Postal Record*, anecdotal reports pointed to another great year.

Jaci Christiansen, community impact director at Head of the Lakes United Way, explained to WDIO-TV in Duluth, MN, how the drive works. "Today is the national Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive," she said, "Logistically, you know, folks got some plastic bags in their mailbox a couple of days ago from their letter carriers. And so, folks are putting food out on their front steps in their mailboxes, and letter carriers and volunteers are heading around the community to pick things up."

Food banks around the country talked about the need for the drive. "Families will see those ever-so-tight food budgets being stretched even more. This is crucial," Ginette Bott, president and CEO of the Utah Food Bank in Salt Lake City, told KSLTV.

It was no different in Tampa, FL. "This is an incredible event," Dr. Sarah Combs, president and CEO of Metropolitan Ministries, told Fox 13. "We're seeing a huge increase in need not just from our seniors, but also from our families. Allowing us to be able to stock our shelves so we can make sure that we're feeding those families as well as our seniors in our community is just incredible."

"The need is still there" even as gas and food prices rise, Dale Jones, program director at the Salvation Army Elyria, OH, Corps, told *The Chronicle-Telegram* while watching volunteers unload bags and boxes from Postal Service vans or carriers' personal cars, then sort them into boxes for storage. Jones said he was grateful for the public, the volunteers who showed up, and the letter carriers who gave their time and effort.

"We're hearing from families all the time right now that they are really feeling the stretch in their budgets, and so when our community can step up and show up and help us meet that goal of 10,000 pounds, it really allows us to ensure that families have what they need to get through the summer and make sure kids have fun," Amy Allison, the executive director of Missoula, MT, Food Bank, told KPAX-TV.

And letter carriers were proud to step up to help. "Actually, the food drive is my favorite day of the year. It's just taking something that we do every day—we're out here on our routes, but it just makes it extra special that we're able to collect the food for people in our own community," Lisa Darley of San Antonio, TX Branch 421 told Texas Public Radio.

Darley, who delivers in Kirby, TX, said that she often sees people who are in need but is rarely asked for help. This is something she can do without having to be asked.

"Today's food drive is important in my opinion because of the economy," Mary Pedro, president of Hilo, HI Branch 2932, told Big Island Now. With 40 percent of Hawai'i Island residents experiencing food insecurity, food drives are critical. "It's not getting any easier, and there's a lot of families in need, especially here in Hawai'i."

Terje Tuttle of Maine Merged Branch 92 told Maine's Total Coverage (WMTW) that the food drive is something they look forward to every year. "We serve the public. So, this is a great way to give back to the community and show that we are involved. It's great, I love it and I truly look forward to it every year," he said.

Morgantown, WV Branch 783 President Justin Jarman said the timing of the drive is important. "Typically around the holidays there's an influx of people giving to pantries because of the time of year," he told MetroNews. "About six months later, May 9, those pantries start to diminish, so this one-day food drive extends that."

"Last year here in Morgantown we collected about 7,200 pounds of food, which was more than the years before," he said. "We were able to distribute that to six different food pantries here in Morgantown."

He said that it's important for letter carriers to step up for people in their neighborhoods. "It's a job where you are pretty much part of the family," he said.

In the Redford, MI, neighborhood where she lives, Detroit Branch 1 member Elaine Jones was showing off the neighborhood donations to her letter carrier and fellow Branch 1 member, Danielle Dill. "When you tell us to put out the food, we put it out," Jones said, as captured by WDIV-TV. "We got dried goods, canned goods, and I see the neighbors have put out a lot; we appreciate you."

"I'm seeing bags here, everyone is donating. I have a great route and will be collecting a lot of food today!" Dill said. "I was one of those people that relied on help. It makes me feel good to give back. I'll sleep tomorrow."

The annual food drive wouldn't be possible without the support of our national partners: the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, RR Donnelley, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, Nutri-Grain and CVS Health. These partners help by paying for the specially marked postcards, donating thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars to food pantries, donating bags that letter carriers distribute to customers, gathering volunteers, or getting out messages about the food drive.

Branches were asked to report their food drive totals to Headquarters by June 7. The total pounds of food collected, and top branch collections, will be announced in the July issue of *The Postal Record*.

# President appoints Region 4 NBA

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe has appointed John Robles as national business agent (NBA) for Region 4 (Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming) to fill the vacancy left by Dan Versluis, who retired on May 1. Robles' appointment is effective immediately.

Robles, a member of Centennial, CO Branch 5996, joined the Postal Service as a city letter carrier in 1998 and joined NALC during orientation. He has served as a chief steward, Formal Step A designee, branch trustee, arbitration advocate and district lead for joint route adjustment processes. Additionally, he has served as vice president and director of education for the Colorado State Association of Letter Carriers. In 2016, President Fredric V. Rolando appointed him as a regional administrative assistant for Region 4, a position he held until his appointment as NBA. Robles is also a graduate of NALC Leadership Academy Class 15.



Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100



Ann Arbor, MI Branch 434



# Retiring Officers' Dinner

All retiring national officers will be honored at a reception and dinner on Thursday, Aug. 6, in the Platinum Ballroom of the JW Marriott Los Angeles LA Live during the national convention.

The Retiring Officers' Dinner will honor the members of the NALC Executive Council who have retired since the 2022 convention, and those who plan to retire before or upon completion of their current term. NALC regional administrative assistants (RAAs) and National Auxiliary officers who retire during that time frame will be honored as well.

As this *Bulletin* goes to press, the list so far of those being honored includes former Region 4 National Business Agent (NBA) Dan Versluis, Region 14 NBA Rick DiCecca, Region 11 RAA John Collins, Region 11 RAA David Kennedy, Auxiliary President Cynthia Martinez and Auxiliary Secretary Crystal Bragg.

The event will begin with a reception at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. A program honoring the retirees will follow, and the event will continue with dancing until 11 p.m. Tickets are \$85 each, sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Regions, branches and individual members must use the Retiring Officers' Dinner order form below to buy tickets. Those planning to attend should buy tickets as soon as possible by sending the order form with full payment to: Retiring Officers' Dinner, NALC Secretary-Treasurer, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. Checks or money orders payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" must be received by July 6. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope. There is a maximum of eight guests per table.

Tickets and table assignments will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area.

## Retiring Officers' Dinner order form

I would like to reserve tickets to the NALC Retiring Officers' Dinner on **Thursday, Aug. 6**, in the Platinum Ballroom of the JW Marriott Los Angeles LA Live. Tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope. Maximum eight guests per table.

(Please print clearly)

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$85 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total enclosed)

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person ordering the tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual picking up the ticket(s) at the convention: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile/cell number of the person picking up the tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party have dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks or money orders payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" must be received by July 6.

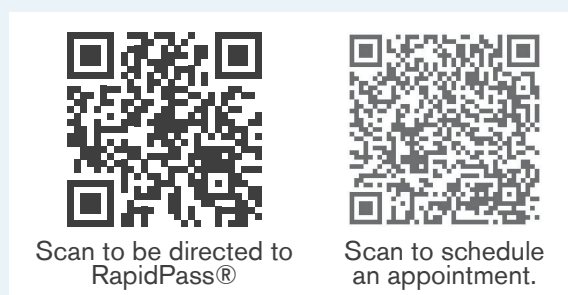
Mail order form and payment to:

Retiring Officers' Dinner, NALC Secretary-Treasurer,  
 100 Indiana Ave. NW,  
 Washington, DC, 20001-2144

# Blood drive

NALC will host a blood drive at the convention on Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 308B. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "NALC" to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®

Scan to schedule an appointment.

# National Association of Letter Carriers

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NALC Bulletin is published semi-regularly by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Membership Department, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? Contact the Membership Department.

© 2026 by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Circulation: 10,000. Union-printed using soy-based inks.

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