

# 50 states 27 contests 1 winner



**A**fter a half-year-long COLCPE contest pitting state against state, the NALC state associations that came out with a higher percentage of members contributing to the union's political fund at the Gimme 5 level were not the only victors. Every NALC member benefits from a political program that helps us stand our ground against those who would damage the U.S. Postal Service or go after working families' rights and benefits.

The competition began in July 2010, with an announcement that states with similar membership sizes would be paired, each trying to sign up more active and retired members to give to COLCPE, the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education. Match-ups like California versus New York and Texas versus Florida provided for regional rivalries as well.

All told, close to 1,350 new COLCPE contributors signed up during the contest.

"The sense of competition brought out the best in our state association and branch leaders," President Fredric V. Rolando said. "And while it's fun to win, even the states that didn't win should feel proud of the way they got out there and encouraged members to take an interest in preserving and protecting their futures."

The results (*see chart on page 14*) have been tabulated to include all contributions made through the end of November. (Contributions through EFT and OPM had to be reflected in our system by the end of November; contributions via PostalEASE had to be reflected in our system by the second pay period

in December.) The state in each pairing that had the highest percentage of Gimme 5 for COLCPE contributors was declared the contest winner.

Winning state associations will each conduct raffles to draw, at random, the names of three Gimme 5 automatic contributors, who will receive \$200 American Express gift cards. Also, the three states with the highest percentage of Gimme 5 contributors received plaques and \$500 American Express gift cards, which can be used in future COLCPE raffles in those states.

The Gimme 5 program encourages active carriers to automatically contribute at least \$5 per pay period to COLCPE by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by using one of their three payroll allotments. Retirees are Gimme 5 givers when they donate \$5 or more each month directly from their annuity payments or by EFT. These automatic contributions provide a steady, dependable flow of money, which in turn helps the NALC's Legislative and Political Affairs Department more effectively plan and budget its resources.

"After the disappointing results of the midterm elections, it's more important than ever for us to be able to play defense, and COLCPE is key to our ability to stand strong," Rolando said. "It's long been said that COLCPE is a letter carrier's job insurance, and that's exactly what we need as Congress considers making serious and long-term changes to the Postal Service. With the financial help of our members, we have the ability to plan our political and legislative strategy to make sure Congress

makes the right decisions for the Postal Service's future."

**Tight races**

While some states showed large gains, many races were decided by thin margins. Iowa versus Kansas began as a tie, with each state at 6.2 percent, and ended with Kansas narrowly edging out Iowa 6.55 percent to 6.54 percent.

Other pairings revealed states that took up the challenge and overcame smaller beginning numbers. Texas started with 5.3 percent to Florida's 6 percent, but ended the competition with 6.314 percent—powered by big gains in Dallas Branch 132, Houston Branch 283 and Austin Branch 181—besting the Sunshine State's 6.272 percent. Denton,

TX Branch 1367 experienced the biggest growth in the country with a change of seven percentage points.

Similarly, Illinois trailed Michigan 5.4 to 7.4 percent from the start, but shot by Michigan, thanks to Chicago Branch 11 signing up 261 new contributors, to finish at 8.274 percent, well ahead of Michigan's 7.814 percent.

"It's great to see the way these states and their leaders responded to the challenge," Rolando said, "but we still have a long way to go to get where we need to be. Our goal remains just 50 cents a day from all active carriers—\$5 a paycheck—to protect our jobs and benefits in these difficult times." ✉

Absolutely no union dues money is used to support political candidates. Contributions to COLCPE are entirely voluntary.

**And the winners are...**

The top five states in overall percentage were:

- Hawaii**—30.4%
- South Dakota**—19.7%
- Alaska**—19.1%
- Mississippi**—18.7%
- Alabama**—16.6%

The top five states in terms of improvement were:

- South Dakota**—3.6 percentage points
- Illinois**—2.9 percentage points
- Wyoming**—1.9 percentage points
- Nevada**—1.8 percentage points
- West Virginia**—1.7 percentage points

**Each competition result**

(winning state is in bold)

State	Starting %	Final %
<b>HI</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>30.385%</b>
AK	19.4	19.076%
<b>MS</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>18.686%</b>
AL	17	16.583%
<b>SD</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>19.684%</b>
ND	13.4	14.229%
LA	14.1	14.557%
<b>RI</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>16.088%</b>
<b>UT</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12.434%</b>
OR	10.7	10.622%
ID	9.7	9.066%
<b>DE</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.250%</b>
KY	7.1	7.468%
<b>TN</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.214</b>
<b>NH</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.159%</b>
NM	8.9	10.137%

<b>VT</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.192%</b>
MT	7.8	7.658%
MI	7.4	7.814%
<b>IL</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.274%</b>
IA	6.2	6.545%
<b>KS</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.550%</b>
MN	6.9	7.269%
<b>WA</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.776%</b>
<b>WI</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.589%</b>
IN	6.1	6.370%
<b>WV</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.615%</b>
NE	5.6	5.755%
OK	4.5	5.002%
<b>NV</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.789%</b>
PA	5	5.355%
<b>NJ</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.528%</b>
MO	4.7	5.165%
<b>GA</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.198%</b>
AR	3.9	4.337%
<b>SC</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.047%</b>

VA	4.5	5.087%
<b>MD</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.137%</b>
<b>NC</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.741%</b>
AZ	4.1	4.850%
<b>OH</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.131%</b>
MA	3.8	4.154%
<b>CO</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.621%</b>
CT	3.9	4.531%
<b>WY</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7.267%</b>
ME	4.4	4.639%
PR	1.8	2.181%
<b>DC</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.538%</b>
FL	6	6.272%
<b>TX</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.314%</b>
<b>CA</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.947%</b>
NY	2.5	2.790%
Guam	4.73	6.061%
<b>VI</b>	<b>10.64</b>	<b>10.638%</b>