

Election results



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Well, the presidential election is finally over. That's the best thing I can say about it. This was without a doubt the ugliest, most divisive presidential election that has taken place in my lifetime.

Each candidate seemed to spend the majority of their time trying to convince us that their opponent was a horrible person. I think this has a lot to do with why people were/are so emotionally charged.

As I write this, it is now a week after the election and there is still considerable division around the country over the results. We have celebration parties going on in some cities and protests in others.

This would have been true regardless of who won this particular election. Some folks point out that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote and say that she should have won the election because of this. As we all know, that is not how it works. Donald Trump won the Electoral College by a margin of 290-232. Whether you like it or not, that makes Donald Trump our president for the next four years.

I always vote for candidates who I believe will give us the best chance for success on letter carrier issues in the legislative process. This election was no different for me. I cast my vote for Hillary Clinton. As I say this, I fully understand that many of you either do not agree that she would have been better for us on letter carrier legislative issues, or you cast your vote based on other issues. As a matter of fact, I am pretty sure that we, as letter carriers, are as split on who we voted for in the presidential election as the rest of the country.

Accepting the results of an election where you supported the side that lost is never an easy thing, but in a democracy, it is necessary. As such, it is time for all those who supported Hillary Clinton to accept the fact that Donald Trump won the election. I made my peace with this on Nov. 9 and wish our new president the best of luck in his new position.

Donald Trump is the first U.S. president ever elected who either wasn't previously a military leader or had never held elected office. It turned out that was a strength for him in this election cycle.

President-elect Trump made campaign promises such as repealing the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare), building a wall on Mexico's dime, deporting almost 11 million undocumented immigrants, and temporarily banning Muslims from entering the United States. Personally, I do

not support any of these proposals, nor do I think they are realistic. On the other hand, he also promised to save Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security without cutting benefits; rebuild and improve the country's aging infrastructure; renegotiate trade deals; and bring outsourced manufacturing jobs back. These are ideas it seems we could all get behind. Time will tell which promises will be kept and which will wind up on the cutting-room floor.

I can report that the NALC's role in the legislative process has not changed as a result of this election. We will continue to closely follow the legislative issues that affect letter carriers as they unfold. We will support legislation that has a positive effect on letter carrier issues and the Postal Service and oppose legislation that does not.

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Speaking of politics, it is also the season for NALC elections. It is natural for us to be divided on who we support in branch elections. Hard-fought campaigns are as much a part of our organization as they are for our lawmakers, but at the end of every race, there is going to be a winner and a loser. The trick is for all of us in the NALC to remember that we are all on the same team when the election is over. Please respect the election results in your branch and support the winning candidates. They will need your help to make your branch as successful as it can be.

In closing, I wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

