

Looking ahead to Nov. 8: Gearing up for the general election



Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
Kori Blalock Keller

As Congress begins to wrap up its work in Washington and we await the upcoming Democratic and Republican national conventions, all eyes—including NALC’s—are looking ahead to Election Day in just four months. With all 435 House members, one-third of the Senate and the White House up for grabs, there’s a lot at stake in this election, which is why many members of Congress are busy preparing to dash back to their districts for their re-election campaigns.

While NALC will continue to monitor Capitol Hill, we will also work to influence the 2016 election results throughout the country. It’s a big goal, but we’ve helped elect and re-elect members of Congress year after year. In fact, many members of Congress know who letter carriers are because of what we do: put boots on the ground. Among the unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, NALC releases more campaign volunteers than most others, second only to AFSCME. Now, we’re preparing for another general election.

In this election cycle, NALC has been coordinating with the AFL-CIO in preparation for putting letter carrier activists in battleground states where we know we can make a big difference. In those states where we’re needed most, we’ll be working with state federations to release NALC members to knock on doors, talk with voters, register people to vote and get out the vote. While the brunt of our efforts will be in the states where we simply can’t afford to lose, there will be opportunities for all activists to get involved with campaigns through the state federations.

Let’s not forget that our political action committee (PAC), the Letter Carrier Political Fund, remains one of the most important tools we have for helping to elect and re-elect those candidates who support letter carriers. Since union dues are never used to support candidates, we rely 100 percent on voluntary member contributions to support our PAC. Currently, just 8 percent of NALC members give to the Political Fund. While we’re grateful for those who have contributed to the PAC over the years, we’re also working to engage more letter carriers in the political process as a means of helping to keep this invaluable fund growing. We hope you will join us in recruiting more NALC members—including those new to the union—who are committed to helping elect those candidates who have committed to supporting the issues most important to letter carriers.

Whether it’s giving to the Letter Carrier Political Fund or coordinating with your state’s AFL-CIO federation, there are opportunities available for everyone to help ensure that those who are up for election this November are dedicated to defending a strong USPS that provides universal, inno-

vative and affordable services. As Election Day draws nearer, NALC will provide more information about how activists can support candidates’ campaigns in each state. In the meantime, we encourage all activists to reach out to their state federations now to get involved in these efforts and to learn where they’re needed most.

Correction: e-Activist Network Awards

In the June edition of *The Postal Record*, the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs released the e-Activist and LCPF award categories that will be used to recognize the outstanding participation of NALC members in our efforts on Capitol Hill and with our political action committee. To clarify, each e-Activist network award will be awarded for the highest *percentage* of participation among branches, state associations and NALC’s 15 regions. Below are the corrected categories as they will be awarded:

Branch e-Activists: Branches will be divided into three categories based on the number of members (under 249, 250 to 999, and 1,000 or more). The branch with the highest percentage of e-Activists in each category will be recognized.

State e-Activists: State associations will be divided into small, medium and large groups (1 to 1,999, 2,000 to 7,499, and 7,500 or more) and awarded for the highest percentage of e-Activists in each category.

Regional e-Activists: NALC’s 15 regions will be divided into small, medium and large groups (under 14,999, 15,000 to 19,999, and 20,000 or more) and awarded for the highest percentage of e-Activists in each category.

“As Election Day draws nearer, NALC will provide more information about how activists can support candidates’ campaigns in each state.”

Note: 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. 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, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests and the union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.