

Election results



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Well, the presidential election is finally over. That is the best thing I can say about it. I thought the 2016 presidential election was the ugliest, most divisive presidential election that had taken place in my lifetime, and we would never see anything quite like that again. Never say never.

Each candidate in 2020 seemed to spend a lot of his time trying to convince voters that his opponent was a complete failure, a horrible person, and a crook. Joe Biden was more subtle about it and did not bring Donald Trump's family into it, but both candidates participated in this sort of thing. I think the tone of

things was one of several reasons why this election had the largest turnout in our nation's history. People on both sides of this election clearly wanted their voices heard this time around, which is a good thing.

The most annoying part of this election for me was the claim that mail-in ballots are somehow fraudulent and the Postal Service is unreliable.

Oregon has had mail-in ballot voting for 20 years now. The state of Washington has had it for 14 years. There have been several other states that have gone to a mail-in ballot system more recently. There is no evidence of widespread fraud with a mail-in ballot system in any of these states. Any claims to the contrary just ain't true. The same can be said for claims that the Postal Service is unreliable when it comes to handling ballots that go through our system.

One state that seems to be at the center of these kind of claims is Pennsylvania. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not have a mail-in ballot system; it has a "no excuse" absentee ballot system. The Republican-controlled Pennsylvania state legislature voted to change absentee ballot rules from requiring a specific reason(s) for requesting an absentee ballot to "no excuse needed" to request an absentee ballot. It also passed a rule to end straight-party voting in Pennsylvania. Both changes occurred last October, which was well before the pandemic. Unfortunately, counting of absentee ballots cannot begin until after the polls close in most counties in Pennsylvania.

Donald Trump and the Republican Party encouraged their supporters to vote in person on Election Day. Joe Biden and the Democratic Party encouraged their supporters to vote by mail and mail their ballot back in, or to drop it off as soon

as possible after receiving the ballot. It should come as no surprise to anyone that supporters on both sides followed the directions given to them, which is why Donald Trump was leading after all the in-person Election Day votes were counted, and why Joe Biden will win decisively once all of the votes are counted. Joe Biden is ahead by more and more votes every time the count is updated.

As I write this, it is almost two weeks after the election and there still is considerable division around the country over the results. We have seen celebration parties going on in some cities and protests in others. This would have been true regardless of who won this particular election. The same thing happened after the 2016 election, except the tone seems louder this time.

In 2016, some folks pointed out that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by almost 3 million votes and said 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 306-232 in 2016, which made him our president for the last four years.

There are a much different set of facts to look at in 2020. My crystal ball tells me that when all is said and done, Joe Biden will have won the popular vote by close to 6.5 million votes. He will also win the Electoral College by a margin of 306-232, which will make him our president for the next four years.

Accepting the results of an election when 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 of those who supported Donald Trump to accept the fact that Joe Biden won the election and wish our new president the best of luck in his new position. He will certainly need all the help he can get to lead the country out of crisis and division. He has always had a reputation for having the ability to reach across the political aisle and get things done during his many years in the Senate. I have high hopes that President-elect Biden will do the same now.

Speaking of politics, it is also the season for NALC elections. It is natural for us to be divided on whom 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 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!