

# NALC endorses Biden for president

## A special message from NALC President Fredric Rolando



**L**am pleased to announce that the Executive Council of the National Association of Letter Carriers has voted unanimously to endorse the Democratic candidates for president and vice president, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The former vice president and the senator from California have been staunch supporters of letter carriers and the U.S. Postal Service, and have earned the NALC's unequivocal endorsement.

The Executive Council vote occurred Thursday night, Aug. 13, via teleconference. It follows a months-long process of polling our members and reviewing the candidates' views and records on the most important job-related issues to NALC members—job security, workplace rights and employment/retiree benefits.

With respect to polling, our endorsement reflects the demonstrated preference of NALC's membership. In the postcard poll we conducted through our magazine, members preferred Biden over Trump by a greater than 2-to-1 ratio (58.4 percent versus 26.6 percent—reflecting a similar result from a scientific poll conducted for us by Hart Research earlier this year.

As for the candidates' records, the Biden-Harris ticket is clearly superior for letter carriers and their families. President Trump, who refused to fill out our candidate survey, has demonstrated unrelenting hostility to the Postal Service and its workers over the past four years, attacking the agency as “a joke” and calling for the elimination of our collective-bargaining rights while proposing budgets that would slash our pensions and health benefits. He's pushed privatization and deregulation, and has blocked any help for USPS in COVID-19 relief legislation. This record is spelled out in last month's *Postal Record*.

By contrast, former Vice President Biden has spent a career fighting for working people. His vocal support for unions and his backing for the USPS have been loud and clear. He not only responded positively to our candidate questionnaire, but also has made sure that the platform of the Democratic Party includes a commitment to strengthen the Postal Service. It states:

*The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is the world's most efficient mail carrier, and Democrats are wholly committed to supporting a public USPS. We will fight all efforts to privatize the USPS and will work to ensure the USPS is financially sustainable, including by repealing the mandate that the agency “pre-fund” retiree health costs. Democrats will protect the Postal Service's universal service obligation as a core American value and maintain six-day and doorstep mail*

*delivery, which is a lifeline for rural Americans. We will also support new revenue streams for the USPS, including allowing secure shipping of alcoholic beverages by mail and exploring options to enable unbanked and underbanked Americans to access financial services through the Postal Service.*

Sen. Harris has revealed herself to be a close ally of letter carriers in her first term in the Senate. As a member of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal and postal issues, her team has taken a proactive stance, working closely with NALC on postal issues over the past two years. This includes co-sponsoring the Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act (H.R. 4174), which would provide a \$25 billion appropriation to help the Postal Service weather the pandemic. Her varied experience as a local prosecutor in California, as state attorney general and as senator—along with her evident intelligence and empathy for workers—have prepared her well to serve as our next vice president.

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**The Trump-Pence ticket has decided that it will run on** the same GOP platform it adopted in 2016, which ignored the Postal Service altogether while calling for cuts to federal employee pay and benefits. This decision to recycle an outdated and inadequate platform essentially ignores the three-pronged crisis our nation currently faces: a pandemic, an economic meltdown and a racial justice crisis.

As I always make clear to NALC members, we respect the diversity of political opinions in our union. How members vote and what issues matter most to them is their business and their decision. Our messaging is intended for members who make their voting decision based on how it will affect their jobs, benefits, working conditions and careers. We stay strong by focusing on the issues that unite us while respecting our diversity.