

COLA: Cost-of-living adjustment

- ▶ Following the release of the July 2019 Consumer Price Index (CPI), the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) under the 2016-2019 National Agreement is **\$624 annually**. This COLA is based on the change in the CPI from the base index month to July 2019, with the previous six COLAs subtracted.
- ▶ The 2022 projected COLAs for the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), which are based on the CPI's increase between the third quarter of 2020 and third quarter of 2021, is **0.2 percent** and will be finalized with the publication of the September 2021 CPI in October 2021.
- ▶ The 2021 COLA under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) is projected to be **1.4 percent** following the release of the November 2020 CPI. This COLA is based on the change in the CPI between December 2019 and December 2020 and will be finalized with the release of the December 2020 CPI this month.

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Ratification balloting update

Every active letter carrier eligible to vote in the election to ratify the tentative 2019-2023 National Agreement between NALC and the U.S. Postal Service was mailed a copy of the proposed agreement, a letter from NALC President Fredric Rolando, a summary of the contract's provisions, a ballot and secrecy envelope, a return envelope and instructions for casting a vote. For a ballot to be counted, it must be received by noon on Feb. 16.

As previously reported, President Rolando appointed a Ballot Committee to conduct the ratification vote, pursuant to Article 16 of the *NALC Constitution*. The committee arrived in Washington, DC, on Jan. 11, and monitored and observed the mailing of the ballots. The committee will return to Washington on Feb. 15 to monitor and observe the receipt of the ratification ballots and tabulation of votes.

The Ballot Committee is made up of 15 NALC members from branches in 15 states. The members of the committee are: Delano Wilson (chairman) of Silver Spring, MD Branch 2611; Homer Christian of Huntington, WV Branch 359; Ted Lee of Pittsburgh, PA Branch 84; Chareke Batten of Tidewater Virginia Branch 247; Sylvin Stevens of Charlotte, NC Branch 545; Rod Holub of Manhattan, KS Branch 1018; Andy Weiner of Jamaica, NY Branch 562; Mike O'Neill of New Jersey Merged Branch 38; Antonia Shields of Birmingham, AL Branch 530; Joel Malkush of Saint Paul, MN Branch 28; Paul Roznowski of Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126; Ethel Ford of Houston, TX Branch 283; David Norton of Portland, OR Branch 82; Barbara Stickler of Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100; and Rene Eberhardt of Casper, WY Branch 1681. **PR**

The Ballot Committee monitored the mailing of the ballots to active NALC members.

