

# Legislative activism: The time is now



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**Y**ou likely have read in this edition of *The Postal Record* or on the NALC website about the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076), a bipartisan bill that aims to provide financial and operational stability to the Postal Service. The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Ranking Member James Comer (R-KY) on May 11. NALC appreciates the bipartisan effort to craft this bill that addresses the long-needed reform, and we are proud to support it.

While the bipartisan nature of this legislation is certainly a good sign, and we are pleased with how quickly the bill has garnered support from many members of both parties, this fact alone does not mean it is a cinch to become law. Political tensions in Washington, DC, are still quite high after the events of the last several months. The Postal Service remains a polarizing issue among the very politicians that will ultimately vote on the fate of this bill. This is where letter carriers come in.

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**The membership of NALC has a long and proud history** of legislative activism. The dedication and hard work by NALC members, when combined with our legislative and political structure, has allowed us to succeed in educating our elected representatives on our issues for many years.

In the last decade-plus, we have often been in the position of playing defense when legislative threats that would harm the Postal Service have been put on the table. We have played a lot of good defense on ill-conceived ideas for reforming the Postal Service; now it is time for some offense to help push this much-needed positive reform across the finish line.

The main issue that the Postal Service Reform Act of

2021 (H.R. 3076) would address is the mandate that USPS pre-fund health benefits for future retirees. I will not go into the details of it here, but this edition of *The Postal Record* includes a detailed explanation of not only what H.R. 3076 would do, but also the history of this pre-funding problem and why reform is needed.

Whether you are an experienced activist who needs a refresher or a newer volunteer, I strongly encourage you to read that piece. It will arm you with much of the information needed to successfully educate your elected representatives on the importance of voting for passage of this bill.

**There are several tools available to you to assist.** Of course, there are resources like this magazine and the website at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org), as well as NALC’s various social media platforms.

The NALC Member App is the easiest way to receive up-to-the-minute notifications on actions that each NALC member can take to help advance our legislative efforts, as well as a wealth of other information. Information on how to download the app is included on the inside of the front cover of this magazine.

NALC’s legislative and political organizers have been working closely with each of our state associations to communicate our message to members of the House of Representatives. That message and ask is simple—they should support and vote for passage of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076).

NALC does a lot of work with elected officials in Washington, DC, to gain support on our issues. However, having those elected officials hear from their constituents is as important, and sometimes more important, than what they hear from us in the nation’s capital.

**One of the greatest strengths of our union is the geographic and political diversity of our membership.** We are everywhere, and our members’ political views vary across the political spectrum. This issue is not partisan, as evidenced by this bipartisan legislation.

I encourage everyone to check the website, install the app and stay up to date with the latest on this important reform. Let each member of the House of Representatives hear from us with a clear message—support the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076).

We have the opportunity to get this important legislation to the desk of the president for his signature, and finally address the largest piece of the reform needed to stabilize the Postal Service, our jobs, and the service we provide to the American people.