



# News from Washington

## Tangherlini and Kan confirmed to USPS Board of Governors

**O**n May 12, the Senate approved by a voice vote the nominations of Dan Tangherlini and Derek Kan to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG). Tangherlini's term will expire on Dec. 8, 2027, and Kan's term will expire on Dec. 8, 2028. President Biden nominated Tangherlini and Kan in November 2021 to replace John Barer and Ron Bloom on the BOG.



Tangherlini



Kan

Tangherlini, who will serve as a Democratic BOG member, is the managing director of Emerson Collective, a private philanthropic firm. Until 2017, he was the president of SeamlessDocs Federal, a technology firm that focused on simplifying government forms and data collection. His previous government roles include serving as the administrator of the General Services Administration under President Obama and serving as chief financial officer at the Department of the Treasury from 2009 to 2013. From 2006 to 2009, he served the District of Columbia as city administrator and deputy mayor. He also served on the Biden transition team, with responsibility for the Postal Service's Agency Review Team.

Kan, who will serve as a Republican BOG member, is an executive with Deliverr, a California-based e-commerce fulfillment startup company. He was the deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget from July to December 2020. From 2017 to 2019, he served as the Department of Transportation's under secretary for policy. He

previously served as an Amtrak board member and as a general manager for Lyft. Prior to that, he served as an advisor for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and as chief economist for the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

"NALC congratulates Dan Tangherlini and Derek Kan on their confirmations," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "We look forward to working with them and the rest of the BOG to ensure that letter carriers' voices are heard when decisions affecting their interests are made."

### House committee considers bills related to USPS, federal workers

On May 11, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR) held a markup on a series of bills that included two pieces of legislation related to the Postal Service. The Ensuring Oversight Access at the Postal Service Act (H.R. 7674) would provide members of Congress with access to USPS facilities, and the Ensuring an Accurate Postal Fleet Electrification Act (H.R. 7682) would require that USPS conduct a new environmental impact statement with respect to procuring Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDVs). The committee voted 22-14 and 20-15, respectively, to advance these bills.

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and three Democratic co-sponsors introduced H.R. 7674. This legislation would prohibit USPS from inhibiting members of Congress from accessing or visiting any Postal Service facilities for any official purposes. This would include any visits around the time of any federal election.

COR Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Connolly introduced H.R. 7682. The introduction of this leg-

islation comes after the committee held a hearing on the electrification of the Postal Service vehicle fleet and after the Postal Service was sued by the United Auto Workers and the Natural Resources Defense Council last month. This lawsuit claims that the Postal Service failed to follow the law when evaluating and finalizing its contract for NGDVs, and that the contract is based on inaccurate environmental analysis. NALC is closely monitoring this lawsuit. Securing new vehicles for letter carriers is a top priority, and we will continue pushing for the prompt delivery of these vehicles, as well as the funding for them that has been proposed by the Biden administration and is currently before Congress. While the committee voted to advance the bill, the legislation is unlikely to move forward in the House.

Also at the markup, Rep. Connolly introduced the Building the Next Generation of Federal Employees Act (H.R. 1604), which would promote federal internships and fellowships to prepare the next generation of the federal workforce. Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA) introduced an amendment to the bill that included attacks on federal workers as well as anti-union provisions. Notably, this amendment would make it easier to fire federal workers and would reinstate Schedule F, an executive order from the Trump administration that removed federal workers from the General Schedule, ultimately stripping them of their civil service protections. President Biden revoked this executive order upon taking office. Fortunately, the amendment did not pass in the committee.

### Looking ahead to the midtermns

The midterm elections, which take place midway through a presidential

term, are fast approaching, with five months until Election Day on Nov. 8. Midterm elections, which traditionally are difficult for the party of the sitting president, offer voters a chance to determine the makeup of Congress, cast judgment on a president's first two years and determine the fate of his agenda.

President Biden has ushered the country out of the worst of the pandemic, negotiated an historic bipartisan infrastructure package, signed postal reform into law and promoted unions. However, his approval ratings have been battered by public concerns over such issues as inflation, border security and rising crime.

Complicating the outlook is the congressional redistricting process for the House, which occurs every 10 years following the tabulation of the latest census. As population shifts among the 50 states, some states gain seats and others lose them. That process is nearly complete. Some states are battling over the newly drawn lines, and as this publication was going to print, four states—Kansas, Missouri, New York and New Hampshire—have yet to finalize their new congressional districts. According to *Politico*, in those four states there are 170 “strong Biden” districts, 157 “strong Trump” districts, 68 “competitive” districts and 40 districts that have yet to be categorized.

As is the case in every midterm election, all 435 House seats are up for election. Currently, Democrats control the House with 221 seats to the Republicans' 209. There are five vacancies in the House, and 50 members have announced their retirements or resignations. Of these 50 members, 32 are Democrats and 18 are Republicans. Some of these members are seeking higher office, but most are leaving due to political dysfunction and partisanship, or because of challenges resulting from the newly redistricted maps. The number required for a House

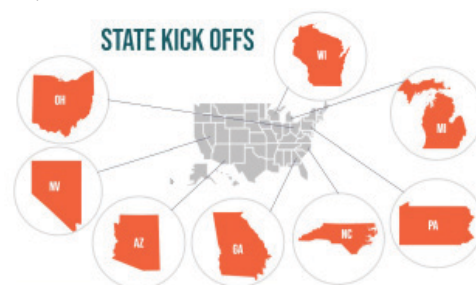
majority is 218 (which, of course, is the “magic” number of votes needed to pass bills). At present, the Democratic margin is narrow.

In the Senate, despite the current 50-50 split, Democrats control the agenda and floor time with the vice president's tie-breaking vote. There are 48 Democrats, 50 Republicans, and two Independents who caucus with the Democrats. This even split makes legislating in the Senate nearly impossible without bipartisanship. With one-third of the Senate up for reelection every two years, this year has 34 seats up for grabs, including 21 currently held by Republicans and 14 by Democrats. Six of these 34 seats are held by senators who have announced their retirements: one Democrat, Patrick Leahy (VT), as well as five Republicans, Roy Blunt (MO), Richard Burr (NC), James Inhofe (OK), Richard Shelby (AL) and Pat Toomey (PA).

Predicting the outcome of political races—let alone control of an entire chamber—is difficult. Regardless, NALC will actively work to protect incumbents and engage with new candidates who support letter carriers and a strong Postal Service. We will engage with candidates who will expand our letter carrier majority in the House and Senate, which enabled the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act (Public Law 117-108), with the support of all Democrats and the majority of Republicans in both the House and the Senate. Primary elections are already underway and will conclude in states with late primaries in mid-September.

To expand our letter carrier majority, NALC will once again continue our investment in the Labor 2022 program, which supports pro-union candidates. The labor program has always prioritized states and races in an effort to elect candidates who support workers' rights, the economy and good jobs, health care, retirement security, education, civil and voting

rights, manufacturing, support for families, and a myriad of other labor priorities, including a strong Postal Service. This year, the AFL-CIO's executive council is focusing on eight states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.



While plans for those states are in early development, central labor councils and state federations have begun early engagement with labor households to identify key issues to help build a successful program from the ground up. As always, NALC will actively engage where our interests are in alignment with the AFL-CIO and where proper infrastructure is in place to support our members in the field. Because the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the safety of our members is a top priority, participation in the program might look different than in years past. We will share how you can engage with the program as more information becomes available soon.

“We have long said that letter carrier issues are not partisan issues,” President Rolando said. “There is no greater example of this than the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act being signed into law. I encourage letter carriers to maintain relationships with incumbents and get to know the men and women running for open seats, no matter their party. Learn their views on our issues and build a relationship. And remember, no matter the outcome of primaries or even the general election in November, NALC will be ready no matter who is in charge.” **PR**