

## Letter Carrier Political Fund



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**A**s we near the end of this Congress, it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved legislatively and politically over the last two years and why. In 2021, Congress passed legislation that provided financial relief for the Postal Service during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, history-making postal reform was signed into law that finally eliminated the crushing mandate for USPS to pre-fund future retiree health benefits and drastically improved the financial outlook for our employer. Finally, Congress passed a bill to combat inflation that included an appropriation of \$3 billion for USPS to buy electric vehicles as part of the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle project.

All if this was made possible by the activism of NALC members both in Washington, DC, and in every congressional district across the country. It was also fueled by NALC's political action committee (PAC), called the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). Let's take a look at its history.

**NALC's PAC was created in 1975. It was called the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE).** The PAC started small but grew significantly by the end of the 1970s. This proved to be crucial for our efforts to fight off repeated attacks on our pay and benefits for both active and retired letter carriers throughout the 1980s.

In the 1990s, our union's legislative and political efforts continued to fight off similar attacks, but they also helped us support the passage of two positive pieces of legislation for letter carriers—Hatch Act reform and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Prior to 1993, active letter carriers were prohibited from participating in nearly all aspects of politics. The reform in 1993 that “un-Hatched” active letter carriers opened the door for our members to become involved in the political process and better fight for our own rights and benefits, both at the grassroots level and on Capitol Hill. To this day, no union has a more active, involved and engaged membership than NALC.

Letter carriers helped make the difference for passage of FMLA. The law protects those with certain medical conditions that cause them to miss work. While it's something most take for granted today, it was not the case prior to 1993.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, NALC's legislative and political efforts were continuously strengthened and be-

came more sophisticated. We successfully fought off countless attacks on our jobs and the Postal Service thrived.

The economic recession and electronic diversion of First-Class Mail dealt a significant blow to Postal Service revenue in the late 2000s. This revenue loss, due to the decline in First-Class Mail volume and with the mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, led to many on Capitol Hill attacking our jobs, including several unsuccessful attempts to eliminate Saturday mail delivery and door delivery. Our members' activism and the hard work of our officers and legislative staff on Capitol Hill fought off these attacks.

Our secret weapon was our ability to reach, maintain and build more relationships through COLCPE. In 2015, COLCPE was renamed the Letter Carrier Political Fund so its name better represented its purpose and mission. LCPF money continues to be used to support our efforts on Capitol Hill every day—including the victories in this Congress that I mentioned to start this column.

**While the name has changed, LCPF continues to be bipartisan.** Republicans, Democrats and independents receive our support if they support letter carriers, plain and simple. Our PAC is one example of how thousands of us contribute a little bit to build our collective influence.

Contributing to LCPF is the easiest step an NALC member can take to participate in NALC's political efforts to influence members of Congress to protect our jobs. As we continue to work to achieve our legislative priorities, there has never been a better time than now for each member to make a small contribution to LCPF. The easiest and most convenient way to participate is through automatic payroll deduction for active letter carriers and automatic deduction from the monthly annuity for retirees.

For more information or to sign up to become a contributor, please go to [nalc.org/pac](http://nalc.org/pac) or call the NALC Department of Legislative and Political Affairs at 202-393-4695.

**Note:** By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until canceled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administrative staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 per calendar year. Any guideline amount is merely a suggestion, and an individual is free to contribute more or less than the guideline suggests and the union will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.