



News from Washington

Letter carriers take action as reconciliation fight advances in Senate

As this magazine was going to print, the House was considering the Senate-passed reconciliation measure, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1). Next month's edition of *The Postal Record* will detail the final legislation.

At various points in the budget reconciliation process, letter carriers answered the call to fight off significant cuts to retirement benefits, organizing rights and attempts to eliminate electric postal vehicles.

"As new attacks have surfaced, letter carriers have consistently answered the calls to action," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "While the process continues, NALC will keep fighting like hell to guarantee our retirement benefits stay off the table and that the new postal vehicles we desperately need are protected."

Budget reconciliation allows Republicans to bypass Democratic opposition and advance President Trump's comprehensive tax, immigration, energy, and health care agenda.

Check the "Government Affairs" section of nalc.org and the next issue of *The Postal Record* for updates.

House Oversight Committee holds hearing on future of Postal Service; President Renfroe testifies

On June 24, the House Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing titled "The Route Forward for the U.S. Postal Service: A View from Stakeholders."

President Renfroe was called to testify to provide the critical perspective of the 200,000 active city letter carriers who carry out the Postal Service's universal service obligation every day.

NALC President Brian L. Renfroe testifies at the House Subcommittee on Government Operations' hearing, "The Route Forward for the U.S. Postal Service: A View from Stakeholders."



Other witnesses included Jim Cochrane, CEO of the Package Shippers Association; Elena Spatoulas Patel, assistant professor at the University of Utah's Marriner S. Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis; Mike Plunkett, CEO and president of the Association for Postal Commerce; Thomas Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste; and Paul Steidler, senior fellow at the Lexington Institute.

President Renfroe began his opening remarks on a solemn note, honoring **Jacob Taylor**, a letter carrier from Dallas, TX Branch 132, who died on the job in June.

Renfroe's testimony emphasized the numerous job hazards letter carriers face, including the dangers of extreme heat and rising criminal assaults and the need to protect letter carriers in all circumstances. The necessary protection also extends beyond those areas, Renfroe noted.

"If Congress wants to help the Postal Service, I urge you to do everything possible to protect letter carriers and all postal employees, implement necessary financial changes, and guarantee the Postal Service remains an independent, non-taxpayer-funded public service it has been for the last 55 years," Renfroe said. "If the American people's mail and packages are to be protected, the people who deliver them must first be better protected," he added.

With the hearing focused on the Postal Service's future, Renfroe emphasized the critical need for Congress and the administration to address the Postal Service's finances, specifically calling for a proper calculation of the Postal Service's pension liabilities and allowing USPS to invest its retiree health benefit funds more responsibly.

Regarding the Delivering for America plan, Renfroe said that "modernization is long overdue. One of the primary challenges of such a transformation is



President Renfroe testifies with the other witnesses: Jim Cochrane, CEO of the Package Shippers Association; Elena Spatoulas Patel, assistant professor at the University of Utah's Marriner S. Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis; Mike Plunkett, CEO and president of the Association for Postal Commerce; Thomas Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste; and Paul Steidler, senior fellow at the Lexington Institute.

maintaining and improving service as a massive network is modified.”

The other stakeholders who testified align more with private shippers, ultimately motivated by profit.

“When Congress seeks to make changes or understand the operations of the Postal Service, I urge you to come to us—the people who work within the system every day and are invested in the service we provide to the American people,” Renfroe said.

The hearing was particularly relevant as the incoming postmaster general, David Steiner, is set to lead the agency this month. His leadership comes with many uncertainties.

“While NALC has reservations about the USPS Board of Governors’ selection for postmaster general, guaranteeing that the Postal Service remains an independent, non-taxpayer-funded, non-partisan agency is key. We fulfill a universal service obligation that no other private shipper does, could, or would fulfill.”

Overall, questions focused on the Delivering for America plan, potential impacts of privatization, cost savings, the upholding of the universal service obligation, and the structure of the Postal Service’s leadership.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) asked Renfroe why a stable Postal Service workforce is important. He emphasized that the “stability of the workforce has gone a long way to building the trust that Americans have in letter carriers and the Postal Service.”

Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL) began his questioning by thanking Branch 1091 letter carriers in his Central Florida district. He then pointed out the difference between private businesses and public services and asked Renfroe how postal privatization could affect customers. Renfroe explained that any effort to privatize would “erode the universal service obligation” that Americans depend on.

In his closing remarks, Chairman Pete Sessions (R-TX) thanked postal workers for their contributions and acknowledged the thousands of postal workers working in extreme temperatures as a heat wave swept large parts of the country.

President Renfroe’s full testimony is available on nalc.org.

OSHA holds informal public hearings on proposed heat safety rule

Last month, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

held informal virtual public hearings on the agency’s *Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings* proposed rule.

President Renfroe testified on June 18 in strong support of the rule.

“USPS records show that letter carriers report hundreds of heat injuries annually,” Renfroe said. “However, the actual number is undoubtedly greater, as the Postal Service’s productivity-focused culture discourages letter carriers from reporting symptoms, as evidenced, in some cases, with letter carriers being disciplined because of a heat-related injury.

“Heat illness does not just sicken my members. On occasion, it kills them,” he continued. “At least seven letter carriers have died as a result of exposure to heat since 2012. Tragically, these injuries and deaths are preventable.

“A nationwide heat standard that sets clear requirements for USPS and other employers is the only way to truly mitigate the dangers that heat poses.”

From June 16 to July 2, OSHA heard testimony from labor representatives, industry leaders, and other stakeholders over several weeks.

“NALC appreciated the opportunity to bring the voice of our 200,000 active

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members to today's hearing," Renfroe said. "NALC has been a leader in fighting for a national heat safety standard for years, and we support full implementation of this rule. Our union stands ready to work with OSHA, the Department of Labor, and all necessary stakeholders to keep this critical proposal moving through the rulemaking process."

President Renfroe's full testimony is available on nalc.org.

House committee advances bill to expand letter carrier access to workers' compensation providers

On June 25, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce unanimously voted (34-0) to advance the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170).

Currently, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) limits treatment for injured federal workers, including letter carriers, to physicians only. However, a growing shortage of physicians willing to accept FECA cases has created "provider deserts" in many parts of the country, making it difficult for injured letter carriers to access timely care.

H.R. 3170 addresses this gap by amending FECA to authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat these cases.

The legislation received strong bipartisan support during the markup. This bill was reported out of committee in both the 117th and 118th Congresses—the prior two congressional sessions. In the 117th Congress, it passed the House with broad bipartisan support.



Anthony Lomangino



John LaValle

"NALC appreciates the committee's unanimous support to advance this bill," President Renfroe said. "When a letter carrier, or any federal employee, is injured on the job, finding quality, convenient, and timely care is essential. NALC urges Congress to pass this critical legislation."

The next step is for the bill to be considered on the House floor, where time is limited and securing a vote can be challenging.

Check the "Government Affairs" section of nalc.org for future updates.

President Trump sends two USPS BOG nominees to Senate

In June, President Trump nominated Anthony Lomangino and John LaValle, two Republican nominees, to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG).

Currently, the BOG is comprised of five sitting governors: two Republicans, two Democrats, and one independent, with four vacant governor seats.

Lomangino would fill the seat currently held by Roman Martinez IV, who is serving a holdover year, and

his term would expire in 2031.

LaValle would replace Anton George Hajjar for a term that also ends in 2031.

Lomangino comes from Florida's recycling and waste-management industry, including roles at Southern Waste Systems and LGL Recycling. Lomangino co-founded Right for America, a PAC supporting Trump's reelection.

LaValle previously served as a White House liaison to the Department of Energy. He previously served Brookhaven, NY, as councilman (1996-2000) and supervisor (2000-2005). In 2019, he ran for mayor in Port Jefferson. He currently leads a law firm and a consulting business focused on real estate tax credits.

As is customary, the White House sends nominations to the Senate, where we expect both to be considered in the coming weeks. Both the postmaster general and deputy postmaster general also serve as governors, along with the complement of nine Senate-confirmed governors.

The Senate typically considers BOG nominations in bipartisan pairs—a Republican alongside a Democrat—to maintain political balance. In this case, the White House is requesting the confirmation of two Republicans without a Democratic counterpart, which would shift the balance of the Board to three Republican seats and three Democratic seats.

With incoming Postmaster General David Steiner having been hand selected by the administration directly from a private shipper, joining two potential governors with no known experience with Postal Service employees, NALC is deeply concerned.

“NALC calls on these nominees to proactively engage the nation’s 295,000 active and retired city letter carriers, especially during this critical time,” President Renfroe said. “We also urge the Senate to advance nominees who will protect letter carriers, all postal employees, and the universal network.”

2026 White House budget targets USPS steward time

On June 6, the Trump administration released its \$2.6 trillion Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget proposal, setting the stage for the Republican-led House and Senate as they begin work to set priorities through Sept. 30, 2026. The proposal came while Congress continued work on its FY 2025 reconciliation package.

The White House budget calls for eliminating “official time,” and more specifically, “steward time” at the Postal Service. NALC’s collective-bargaining agreements (CBA) with USPS have long provided for payment of stewards for performing steward activities permitted under the CBA.

“This budget proposal is a calculated attack on our collective-bargaining rights, letter carriers, and our union,” President Renfroe said. “Any attempt like this to infringe upon what we have bargained in good faith will be met with the fiercest of resistance from hundreds of thousands of America’s letter carriers, postal employees, and the hundreds of millions of Americans we serve every day.

“This is particularly concerning as we prepare for an incoming postmaster general with a troubling anti-union background, and further justifies growing concerns about

handing over our public service to private shipper.”

Overall, the FY 2026 request calls for a 22.6 percent cut to non-defense spending—a \$163 billion cut from current year spending—which is expected to trigger major cuts to discretionary programs.

The annual budget season typically begins with a mandate from the White House to set federal spending and policy priorities. As has unfolded under previous Republican “trifectas” (single-party control), the GOP sought to reduce federal spending and increase corporate tax breaks.

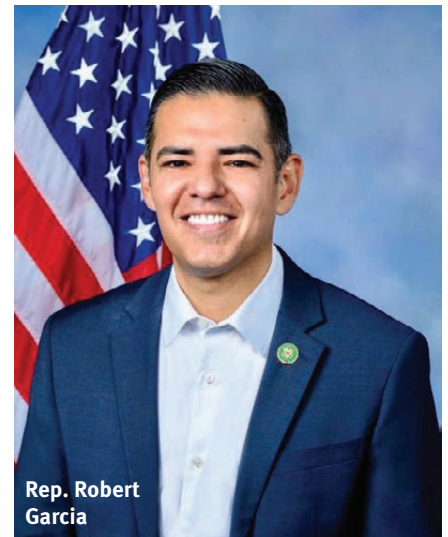
While the Postal Service is not taxpayer-funded, it is subject to the implications of White House directives, as outlined in the FY 2026 budget request.

“NALC stands ready to protect the rights of our members, the agreement we have collectively bargained, and the thousands of dedicated shop stewards who enforce its terms daily. We will keep fighting like hell against any agenda that attacks us or our rights,” Renfroe said.

“Letter carriers are not new to these budget battles, despite the Postal Service not being taxpayer-funded,” he added. “It’s ultimately up to Congress to reject this budget blueprint of destruction. We call on all members of Congress of both parties to declare this portion of the budget proposal dead on arrival.”

Robert Garcia tapped as ranking member of House committee overseeing USPS

On June 24, the House Democratic Caucus named Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA) as the new ranking member of



the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, a key congressional committee with oversight of the Postal Service.

Following his selection, President Renfroe congratulated Ranking Member Garcia.

“NALC has a long history of working productively with the House Oversight Committee, and we look forward to continuing that partnership with Ranking Member Garcia,” Renfroe said. “Congressman Garcia has consistently supported workers’ rights, unions, fair retirements, and a strong public Postal Service. We’re confident he’ll bring that vision to his leadership role.”

With a new postmaster general set to take office soon, steady, informed leadership on the committee that oversees the Postal Service is essential.

“Now more than ever, it’s essential to have a leader who understands and defends the Postal Service’s public mission and the universal service we provide to every American,” Renfroe said. **PR**