



News from Washington

NALC's priority resolutions continue to gain support

The 119th Congress presents a critical opportunity to build new relationships and advance legislation that strengthens the Postal Service and supports letter carriers. With 63 new members in the House and 14 new senators, NALC has been hard at work educating lawmakers on the essential role of the Postal Service and the importance of protecting good-paying union jobs, strong benefits and high-quality service.

Already, three key NALC legislative priorities introduced earlier this year are gaining significant traction:

Anti-Privatization Resolution (H.Res. 70/S.Res. 147)—As this magazine went to press, the resolution reached 194 co-sponsors in the House, including 12 Republicans and seven co-sponsors in the Senate. It was introduced Jan. 28 in the House by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Nick LaLota (R-NY), Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), and introduced March 27 in the Senate by Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK). It signals strong bipartisan support for maintaining the Postal Service as a public, independent institution. For comparison: A similar resolution in the 115th Congress (2017-2018) reached 239 co-sponsors.

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) (H.R. 1065/S. 463)—At press time, the bill had 112 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House and three co-sponsors in the Senate. It was reintroduced Feb. 6 by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) in the House, and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) in the Senate. It focuses on enhancing safety and security for letter carriers on their routes.

Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)—As this issue went to print,

the bill had 76 bipartisan House co-sponsors, including 24 original co-sponsors. It was reintroduced Feb. 24 by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL) and Don Bacon (R-NE) and addresses retirement fairness for former non-career postal employees, allowing them to buy back time toward their federal retirement.

While none of these measures has yet become law, all three are on track to gain majority support with continued advocacy from NALC members across the country. Though resolutions like the anti-privatization measure are non-binding, they serve as important barometers of congressional sentiment—helping to shape what legislation the leadership may or may not bring forward.

For instance, if 218 or more members of Congress signal support for keeping the Postal Service a public entity, it sends a powerful message to House leaders that privatization efforts will face strong bipartisan resistance. This resolution was introduced early in the session, in part due to President Donald Trump's hostile posture toward the Postal Service—and bipartisan backing will be essential to counter any threats.

As Congress continues its work and looks toward the 2026 midterms, NALC activists must remain engaged, urging their lawmakers to support policies that strengthen the Postal Service, protect our jobs, and ensure fairness for all postal employees.

For updates, visit the Legislative and Political Affairs page at nalc.org and download the NALC Member App for alerts and notifications.

Attacks on federal workers front and center

Since convening in January, the 119th Congress has largely focused on adjusting

to President Trump's return to the White House, propelling an agenda that has tested the limits of executive power and moved aggressively to reshape the federal government.

On Capitol Hill, an aggressive push to lock down changes proposed in the FY26 budget resolution will use budget reconciliation—a legislative shortcut that bypasses the Senate filibuster—to move their tax and spending plans forward with a simple majority vote in both chambers.

As they have in years past, conservative lawmakers want a radical transformation of the civil service and a removal of worker protections. In the 119th Congress, we have seen various legislative proposals aimed at changing these benefits. In fact, as this issue was going to print, the House Committee on Oversight was weighing several recycled proposals aimed at federal employee benefits, and included the following in their reconciliation bill text:

- Raising the FERS contribution rate to 4.4 percent—increasing out-of-pocket costs for workers.
- Eliminating FERS Supplemental Retirement Payments—cutting early retirement income.
- Basing FERS retiree benefit on high-5 instead of high-3 salary—reducing final benefit amounts.
- Enacting Federal Employee Health Benefits Protection Act (H.R. 7868)—reworking eligibility or cost-sharing.
- Converting new federal workers to at-will employment unless they accept higher FERS contribution—weakening job protections unless employees agree to pay more into retirement.
- Charging fees for federal employee Merit Systems Protection Board appeals—potentially pricing out workers from fair due process.

On April 8, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe rallies on Capitol Hill in solidarity with the National Association of Postal Supervisors in the fight to protect our jobs and a strong public USPS for generations to come.



Other proposals that are still being considered include:

- Eliminating official time unless unions compensate the federal government—undermining union representation for non-postal federal workers.
- Adjusting limit of federal employee buyouts—possibly reducing voluntary separation incentives.
- Moving FEHB from a premium-share model to a voucher model—shifting from shared premiums, likely raising costs for employees.

The budget reconciliation process allows Republican leaders in Congress to pass these provisions with a simple majority and bypass Democratic opposition, making it easier for them to slash services, many directly targeting active and retired letter carriers and federal employees.

As letter carriers know, no other group of Americans has contributed to congressional priorities in a manner similar to that endured by federal employees. And with this White House continuing to target federal worker jobs, it is time for Congress to find other ways to cut federal spending than by, once again, taking from the middle-class federal employees and retirees who have dedicated their lives to serving the public. NALC will continue to urge members of Congress to reject attacks on earned benefits that serve only to hurt working-class families in every community in the country. Join the fight by contacting your representatives and senators to let them know you do not support such measures.

100 days in: The aggressive push to reshape government, undermine worker protections

April 29 was the second Trump administration's 100th day—a traditional mile-

stone used to gauge the early direction of a presidency.

In just these first 100 days, the administration has moved swiftly to shrink the federal government through the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (better known as DOGE) and has issued a wave of executive orders aimed at removing perceived opponents. Dozens of officials, including prosecutors and FBI agents involved in investigations related to Trump and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, have been demoted or fired.

At the core of this effort is Project 2025—a sweeping 900-page blueprint authored by the conservative Heritage Foundation. Its rapid implementation has tested the boundaries of executive power while undermining labor rights and worker protections.

Here are some of the most egregious actions:

- At the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the president has fired both pro-worker General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo and NLRB Chair Gwynne Wilcox, removing the quorum required to operate. It no longer has the ability to resolve disputes between unions and employers—a devastating blow to organizing campaigns and grievance resolutions nationwide. In addition, President Trump has removed two commissioners from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, hampering the agency's ability to protect workers from discrimination and retaliation.
- On Jan. 20, the administration reinstated Schedule F, a destructive executive order from Trump's first term that reclassifies tens of thousands of federal employees from civil service workers to at-will employees, stripping them of

civil service protections and making them vulnerable to political firings. Though letter carriers are not directly affected, this effort undermines job security and professional integrity across the federal workforce.

- On Jan. 31, Trump issued an executive order invalidating collective-bargaining agreements that were signed and agreed to prior to his taking office.
- On Feb. 7, the administration halted the use of labor agreements on construction projects at the Department of Defense and expanded the order on March 14 to include all federally funded projects.
- On March 28, President Trump signed an executive order stripping the right to organize from hundreds of thousands of federal employees across more than 30 agencies. The order carved out exemptions for agencies that have been supportive of the administration.
- On April 23, President Trump signed an executive order undermining the use of Registered Apprenticeship programs at the Department of Labor, weakening job training in skilled trades.

The federal government is being fundamentally transformed in ways that endanger workers' rights, union power, and the very foundation of public service. From Capitol Hill to federal agencies, this is shaping up to be the most aggressive anti-worker agenda in modern history.

But Trump still has a long to-do list that will depend on the cooperation of Congress. While Republicans control the House and the Senate, slim majorities in both chambers have complicated their ability to pass sweeping legislation.

Looking ahead, as Congress works to advance Trump's policy priorities, the re-

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mainder of the 119th Congress will involve high-stakes legislative battles over the budget, immigration and taxation—with far-reaching implications for the country and the federal workforce.

“NALC will continue doing what we do best—working on both sides of the aisle to protect letter carriers and the network,” NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. “I encourage all letter carriers to use the resources in our Legislative Action Center. Know who your members of Congress are, reach out to them about NALC’s issues, and set up district meetings with them when Congress is in recess.

“Letter carriers’ district-level work is our strongest legislative tool. I urge you to get involved and join us in the fight.”

Check the “Government Affairs” section of nalc.org for the latest updates and visit NALC’s Legislative Action Center at nalc.org/action.

House passes controversial voter ID bill, H.R. 22

On April 10, the House passed H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, in a largely party-line vote. Introduced by Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX), the bill would require all individuals registering to vote in federal elections to provide in-person proof of U.S. citizenship—including those who use mail-in registration. Under the bill, mail applicants would have to visit an election office or polling site to present qualifying documents before their registration is accepted. States would also be required to verify citizenship through federal databases and remove noncitizens from voter rolls.

While proponents claim that the bill aims to secure elections, it creates significant new challenges for public services—especially the Postal Service and its workforce. The legislation would

impose new burdens on election infrastructure that has long depended on USPS for reliable, nonpartisan delivery of registration forms, ballots and voter communications. USPS would face a rise in time-sensitive, legally critical mail and stricter document-tracking requirements—all without added resources or staffing support. Though not directly targeted by the bill, postal workers—especially letter carriers—will be on the front lines of public confusion, frustration and increased scrutiny, especially in areas where mail is the main conduit for civic engagement.

In rural and underserved communities, where post offices often serve as the only direct link to government services, the added strain could be particularly severe. The SAVE Act threatens to disrupt mail voting systems and undermine public trust in the Postal Service’s long-standing role as a nonpartisan, reliable partner in the democratic process.

Compounding these challenges, President Trump signed a supportive executive order on March 25, directing federal agencies to prioritize enforcement of voting-related documentation requirements and enhance interagency coordination.

Together, the bill and executive order would place new barriers between voters and the ballot box—barriers that also burden the very infrastructure supporting them, including USPS and its essential workers. These changes could erode public confidence in vote-by-mail and affect millions of Americans who rely on it to participate in elections.

The bill now heads to the Senate, where it faces an uncertain path. A companion measure, S. 128, introduced by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), is currently pending in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

NALC will continue to monitor developments in the Senate and provide updates as this legislation progresses.

House reintroduces bill to allow USPS to ship alcohol

On April 24, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) introduced the Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3011) in the 119th Congress.

The bill, which is identical to legislation introduced in the House in May 2023, would allow the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages directly from licensed producers and retailers to legal customers.

Current law prohibits the Postal Service from shipping alcoholic goods, making private shippers such as FedEx and UPS the only option for wineries, breweries and other producers to have goods delivered directly to customers. This bill would allow USPS to ship these beverages and would generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue for the Postal Service.

If passed into law, USPS would have two years to develop regulations ensuring that the Postal Service is prepared to safely deliver alcoholic beverages to adult consumers with appropriate identification checks. The bill also would expand access for direct-to-consumer alcoholic shipments.

Unlike private shippers, USPS delivers to every address in the nation. The current ban on the Postal Service from shipping alcohol limits access to these products for many Americans, especially in rural areas.

“NALC applauds Rep. Newhouse for introducing the Shipping Equity Act,” President Renfro said. “The bill is an important step toward meeting the growing needs of our customers while generating revenue for the Postal Service, expanding the agency’s service opportunities, and supporting small businesses nationwide.” **PR**