

News from Washington

Bill expanding access to workers' compensation providers advances in Senate



On Aug. 6, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S. 3296) advanced out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Prior to the committee's consideration, NALC sent a letter urging the committee to approve the bill.

The bill would expand access to providers by amending the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow federal workers, including letter carriers, injured on the job to receive treatment from physician associates/physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs). Current law prohibits PAs and NPs from treating federal workers in workers' compensation cases.

Increasingly, PAs and NPs provide critical care to patients, especially in rural and underserved communities. This bill would increase the number of eligible providers, making it easier for injured federal workers, including letter carriers, to access the care they need.

In June 2025, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce unanimously approved the House companion bill (H.R. 3170). The next step is for the bill to be considered on the floor of both chambers; however, with limited floor time, it is unclear if a vote will be scheduled.

NALC will continue pushing for this priority bill to receive a full vote in the House and Senate.

House passes SAVE America Act in budget resolution; Senate recesses without action

On July 22, in a 216-214 vote, the House passed a Republican-supported budget resolution. The sweeping package includes priorities of the administration, such as funding for the war in Iran and parts of the SAVE America Act.



Republicans have turned to the lengthy and complicated budget reconciliation process in an effort, among other priorities, to advance this election reform. This is the latest strategy to advance the SAVE America Act, which has been stuck in the Senate for months without enough support for passage.

The SAVE America Act would put numerous restrictions on who can vote by mail. If implemented, mail-in ballots would be rejected unless a form of identification were included, making an already secure and reliable process more difficult.

It would also implement a nationwide mandatory photo ID requirement for voting in federal elections, whether

in person or by mail. It would further limit access to the ballot box by making registering to vote and maintaining registration more difficult. To register or update registration, voters would be required to present a valid passport or birth certificate. Tens of millions of Americans do not have passports, and birth certificates present complications, particularly for married women who change their last names. Subsequent documentation would be required to account for a name change.

Despite pressure from President Trump, the Senate headed into its monthlong August recess without considering the SAVE America Act or

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the House-passed budget resolution. The Senate is expected to consider the House budget resolution when it reconvenes in September, but it is unclear how much support portions of the SAVE America Act will have, or if these provisions will pass the Senate's reconciliation rules, which prohibit any non-budgetary policies.

NALC opposes the SAVE America Act and any other provisions that aim to attack vote-by-mail or Americans' right to vote. Check the "Government Affairs" section of nalc.org for more information as the budget reconciliation process progresses.

Executive order limiting vote-by-mail faces hurdles in court

In late March, President Trump issued an executive order that would severely limit vote-by-mail. The order gives the Postal Service new responsibilities much outside its typical, constitutionally mandated operations. It grants USPS the authority to reject and refuse delivery of ballots unless states comply with newly established federal eligibility lists. The order tasks the Department of Homeland Security with building these state lists of voting-age American citizens.

Since issued, the executive order has faced scrutiny, pushback and challenges in the courts. On Aug. 11, the executive order hit another roadblock when a district judge in Boston expanded on a previous decision, writing that the executive branch has no authority to regulate elections.

On Aug. 21, the Postal Service published a rule detailing how it planned to carry out the executive order. Days later, on Aug. 24, the Supreme Court ruled that USPS could move forward with the new rule, stating that any halting

was premature since the plans were not yet finalized. The Supreme Court did not rule on the legality or constitutionality of the executive order.

In a statement, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe called the Supreme Court's ruling "the latest development in a broader effort to diminish the credibility of mail-in voting, undermine the dedicated work of the nation's 200,000 active city letter carriers, and suppress Americans' access to the ballot."

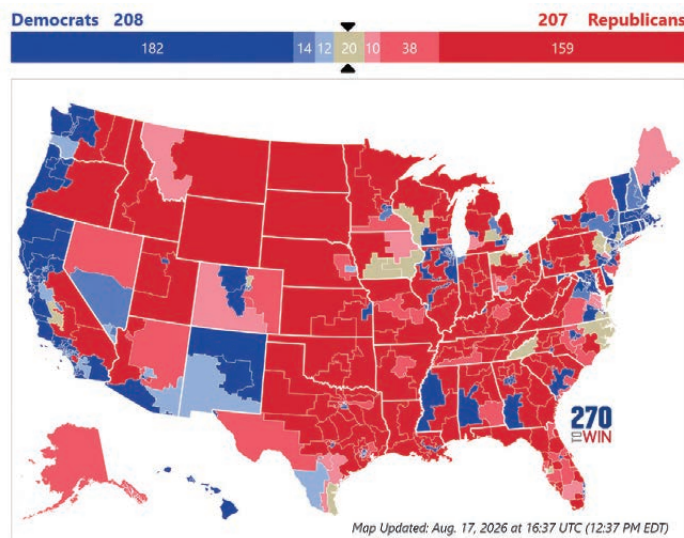
The process will continue to play out in the courts, with more lawsuits expected. NALC is closely monitoring these cases and opposes any efforts that question the validity of or aim to eliminate vote-by-mail.

Midterm elections outlook

For nearly two years, Washington has been governed by a Republican trifecta. In November's midterm elections, Democrats have a chance to change that by winning back one or both chambers of Congress. With razor-thin majorities in both the House and the Senate, every election, state and district matter.

In the House, all 435 members are up for reelection. Currently, 218 seats are held by Republicans, 212 by Democrats, one by an independent who caucuses with the Republicans, and there are four vacancies. Sixty representatives have announced they are retiring or seeking higher office. Regardless of the outcomes, the House will look different next year with dozens of new members.

The magic number in the House is 218. According to The Cook Political Report, there are 19 toss-up House elec-



tions that could easily go to either party. These races will likely determine which party ultimately controls the House.

In the Senate, 33 seats are up for election in November. With the current makeup of 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats, and two independents who caucus with the Democrats, the margins are just as tight. Eleven senators, four Democrats and seven Republicans have announced they are not seeking reelection.

According to The Cook Political Report, there are four toss-up seats—Alaska, Maine, Michigan and Ohio—to closely watch in the battle for control of the chamber.

Historically, the sitting president's party faces challenges in the midterm elections. While many are classifying the midterms, especially in the House, as the Democrats' to lose, the last decade has taught us that anything is possible.

Regardless of the outcomes in November, NALC's priorities will remain. As always, we will work with whoever is in office to advance key pieces of legislation and fend off any attacks that come our way.

We will remain focused on legislation to protect letter carriers from crime on the job; guarantee on-time and fair retirements, regardless of career status; and proposals that will stabilize and improve the Postal Service's finances.

If you haven't yet, make a plan to vote in November. Whether it's early, by mail or in person, your vote matters and is essential to helping us achieve a pro-letter carrier majority in Congress. **PR**