

# News from Washington

## NALC continues to push priorities as Congress struggles amid partial government shutdown



**A**s this magazine was going to print, Congress remained at an impasse over policy changes that are needed to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the remainder of the fiscal year. Without the agreement to fund DHS, the department is experiencing a partial government shutdown. Entering the third week of the shutdown, agencies affected by the shutdown include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

While both sides insist conversations to resolve the shutdown are ongoing, disagreements remain over proposed reforms to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection. Democrats have issued a formal demand for 10 policy changes for ICE they want included to agree to fund DHS, although Republicans have rejected many of these demands. Until both sides can find common ground and come to an agreement, it is unclear how long the partial government shutdown will last. Currently, roughly 260,000 federal employees are affected by the partial shutdown, and many have already begun not receiving a paycheck.

While Congress struggles to do its basic function of funding the government, NALC is continuing to push our legislative agenda, which includes H.R. 1065, the Protect Our Letter Carrier Act, on Capitol Hill. Since the beginning of 2026, NALC has been able to add 24 new bipartisan co-sponsors, bringing the total co-sponsorship to 184 in the House. As of press time, 157 Democrats have co-sponsors

H.R. 1065, and 27 Republicans have co-sponsored this important piece of legislation. According to the most recent data available, while assaults and robberies decreased in 2024 by about 25 percent, robberies remain 400 percent higher than they were prior to the pandemic. If you have not already done so, please visit [nalc.org/action](http://nalc.org/action) to contact your member of Congress and senators and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 1065 or S. 463 and all of NALC's priority legislation.

### **Voter suppression legislation moves through Congress**

On Feb. 11, the House passed S. 1383, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, better known as the SAVE America Act. The goal of this legislation is to make it harder to vote by implementing 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.

Instances of voter fraud are extremely rare. In fact, after the 2024 presidential elections, election officials found no evidence of widespread or systemic fraud. But that has not stopped Republicans and the Trump administration in the upcoming 2026 midterm elections to claim voter fraud is widespread. During the State of the Union address on Feb. 24, President Trump pressed Congress to pass the stalled legislation to address his unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud. In addition, the president urged Congress to pass legislation that would end the use of mail-in ballots except in specific cases of illness, disability, military or travel.

Currently, the SAVE America Act does not contain those limitations.

According to the SAVE America Act, to register or update voter 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.

As this magazine was going to print, the Senate had yet to vote on the legislation. Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) has warned that he does not have the 60-vote threshold needed to break a filibuster. Several Republican members have suggested changing the rules to make it a "talking filibuster," forcing those in opposition to hold the floor in person. (Think Jimmy Stewart in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" style of filibuster.) However, Majority Leader Thune has not expressed interest in changing the current rules, despite some conservative members pushing him to make the change. Check the "Government Affairs" section of [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for future updates. **PR**

