

Letter carriers can make

Critical elections may change direction of the nation

With the 2006 mid-term elections just a month away, the NALC is mobilizing its resources in an unprecedented way to help elect pro-letter carrier candidates across America.

The nationwide voting on November 7 for U.S. House and Senate seats, as well as governors and state legislators, offers the nation a desperately needed chance to change direction and gives NALC a first test of its new political and legislative Field Plan introduced earlier this year by President Bill Young (see April 2006 *Postal Record*, pages 6-9).

The plan represents a dramatic redirection of

resources to sharpen the union's political and legislative efforts. Supplemented by the financial muscle built by the companion "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" fund-raising campaign, the plan aims to increase NALC's capacity to be an effective advocate for letter carriers, both in Washington and in American politics generally.

This fall's general election for all 435 House seats and 33 Senate seats could not come at a more important time for the nation. Although the war in Iraq and concerns about how best to combat terrorism have divided the country, there is a widely recognized belief that America is on the wrong track in its domestic policies.

NALC endorsed candidates



★ Senate seat

● House of Representatives seat

the difference

Working people—letter carriers included—know that something has gone wrong in the U.S. economy and the current leadership in Washington is not even trying to fix it. The benefits of economic growth and rising productivity are not being shared. In fact, median annual household income has actually declined by more than \$2,000 since 2000, even though productivity has increased by 17 percent.

Labor's share of national income fell to an all-time low of 45 percent in 2005 while corporate profits have sky-rocketed and the very richest Americans have grown even more wealthy. Good jobs are becoming increasingly scarce as pension

and health coverage deteriorate—despite a growing economy.

“Over the long haul, only a stronger labor movement, fighting to protect workers and get a better deal from the bosses, can turn this situation around,” NALC President Bill Young said. “But if that is going to happen, a change in political direction is essential.”

Electing a pro-labor Congress is a vital first step, he said. As this issue went to press, national polls suggested that the Democratic Party had an excellent chance to take over the leadership of the House of Representatives and possibly even gain a majority in Senate after 12 years of

NALC endorses these candidates for the following Senate and House of Representative seats:

Arizona

Senate Jim Pederson-D (Challenger)
05 Harry Mitchell-D (Challenger)
08 Gabrielle Giffords-D (Open)

California

11 Jerry McNerney-D (Challenger)

Colorado

04 Angie Poccione-D (Challenger)
07 Ed Perlmutter-D (Challenger)

Connecticut

02 Joe Courtney-D (Challenger)

Florida

Senate Bill Nelson-D (Incumbent)
08 Charlie Stuart-D (Challenger)
09 Phyllis Busanky-D (Open)
13 Christine Jennings-D (Open)
22 Ron Klein-D (Challenger)

Hawaii

Senate Daniel Aakaka-D (Incumbent)

Idaho

01 Larry Grant-D (Open)

Illinois

06 Tammy Duckworth-D (Challenger)
17 Phil Hare-D (Challenger)

Indiana

02 Joe Donnelly-D (Challenger)
08 Brad Ellsworth-D (Challenger)
09 Baron Hill-D (Challenger)

Iowa

01 Bruce Braley-D (Open)

Kentucky

02 Mike Weaver-D (Challenger)
03 John Yarmuth-D (Challenger)
04 Ken Lucas-D (Challenger)

Maryland

Senate Ben Cardin-D (Open)
03 John Sarbanes-D (Open)

Maine

Senate Olympia Snowe-R (Incumbent)

Michigan

Senate Debbie Stabenow-D (Incumbent)

Minnesota

Senate Amy Klobuchar-D (Open)
06 Patty Wetterling-D (Open)

Missouri

Senate Claire McCaskill-D (Challenger)

Montana

Senate Jon Tester-D (Challenger)

Nebraska

Senate Ben Nelson-D (Incumbent)
01 Maxine Moul-D (Challenger)

Nevada

02 Jill Derby-D (Challenger)

New Hampshire

02 Paul Hodes-D (Challenger)

New Jersey

Senate Robert Menendez-D (Incumbent)

New York

Senate Hillary Clinton-D (Incumbent)
11 Yvette Clarke-D (Open)
24 Mike Arcuri-D (Challenger)

North Carolina

08 Larry Kissell-D (Challenger)
11 Heath Shuler-D (Challenger)

New Mexico

01 Patricia Madrid (Challenger)

Ohio

Senate Sherrod Brown-D (Challenger)
01 John Cranley-D (Challenger)
06 Charlie Wilson-D (Open)
13 Betty Sutton-D (Open)
15 Mary Jo Kilroy-D (Challenger)
18 Zach Space-D (Open)

Pennsylvania

Senate Bob Casey-D (Challenger)
04 Jason Altmire-D (Challenger)
06 Lois Murphy-D (Challenger)
07 Joe Sestak-D (Challenger)
10 Chris Carney-D (Challenger)

Tennessee

Senate Harold Ford-D (Open)

Texas

22 Nick Lampson-D (Open)

Vermont

AL Peter Welch-D (Open)

Virginia

Senate Jim Webb-D (Challenger)
02 Phil Kellam-D (Challenger)

Washington

Senate Maria Cantwell-D (Incumbent)
08 Darcy Burner-D (Challenger)

Wyoming

AL Gary Trauner-D (Challenger)

Republican domination. A shift of control to a more pro-labor party in one or both houses of Congress could go a long way toward reining back the Bush administration's anti-labor policies and improving the outlook for America's working families.

To help make that happen, NALC has significantly boosted its fund-raising for COLCPE, the letter carriers' political action committee, through the Gimme 5 campaign. In less than six months, the number of carriers making automatic deductions of at least \$5 per pay period has soared by more than 50 percent.

President Young has put the additional resources to work by assigning nearly 120 NALC members to work full-time on the AFL-CIO's Labor 2006 program, which aims to boost voter turnout among union households in support of pro-labor candidates. In addition, NALC's national officers and national legislative and political staff will be working with the union's state legislative chairs and

new congressional district liaisons (CDLs) to encourage NALC members to vote on November 7.

President Young stressed that even while pursuing a change in the congressional leadership, the NALC maintains its bipartisan political approach. "We support both Democrats and Republicans who support letter carriers' interests," he said.

Members are urged to review the list of endorsed candidates in highlighted races on page 18. These candidates for House and Senate seats have demonstrated a commitment to working people, the Postal Service and the NALC.

President Young called on all NALC members to vote on November 7 and to persuade their friends and family to do so as well. "Take a look at the races in your area and do your own research," he said. "You should find that the candidates that have an NALC endorsement deserve our support. Get out and vote on Election Day and let's all celebrate a positive change on November 8." ☒

Despite the public's resounding "No!" last year, Republican leaders have made it clear they will revive the Bush administration plan to privatize Social Security if their party retains control of Congress in the November.

President Bush himself said in September he would renew the push to divert Social Security tax dollars into the stock market, saying he expected to "drain the politics" out of the issue.

Bush's latest comment only echoed what he has been saying ever since his plan went down in flames last summer. For instance, this past June he said, "If we can't get it done this year, I'm going to try next year."

Rep. Jim McCrery (R-LA), who's likely to chair the Ways and Means Committee if the GOP retains control of the House, said overhauling Social Security should be the top priority for Congress in 2007.

In July, House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) declared, "If I'm around in a leadership role come January, we're going to

get serious about this."

The Bush blueprint to "reform" Social Security calls for cutting future benefits and funneling payroll tax dollars into "personal investment accounts"—accounts that might grow or shrivel, depending on individual luck in the securities market.

The sure winners would be the Wall Street firms skimming a percentage of the billions sent their way. And, because Uncle Sam would have to borrow billions to finance the changeover, the astronomical national debt would grow even worse.

Labor organizations, including the NALC, favor strengthening Social Security and oppose cutting benefits, running up huge new debt or raising the retirement age to pay for privatization. Some changes are needed, but the privatizers' approach is simply a raid on the U.S. Treasury.

America needs a Congress that can deal with Social Security without the "sky is falling" hype and leaders—like the candidates endorsed by NALC—who remember Social Security is a program to help people, not to profit brokers and bankers. ☒

Social Security still prime target

Is it worth

a few dollars a pay period
to **safeguard**
the future of letter carrier

jobs and benefits



GIMME
5
for COLCPE

See the NALC website nalc.org
or contact your branch president
or steward for instructions on
how to donate to COLCPE
automatically from your

- ✓ **bank account**
- ✓ **paycheck or**
- ✓ **annuity**

NALC is asking every letter carrier—active and retired—to support COLCPE, NALC's political action fund. The best way to do this is to sign up for regular contributions. Your donation of \$5 a pay period or more is critical to help NALC fight for the future of the USPS.