



# Clinton is Carriers' Choice



**T**he NALC Executive Council voted unanimously on September 10 to formally endorse Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York for president in next year's election. Although it was an early decision compared to recent White House races, union leaders had no doubt that Clinton is letter carriers' first choice to reverse the course set by the Bush administration.

NALC President William H. Young announced the action at a news briefing September 12 at NALC Headquarters, declaring, "Letter carriers know what I know: We need to change the direction of this country."

"We need a leader who is smart and tough. We need a leader who cares about Wall Street and Main Street. We need a leader who sees the labor movement as the solution, not the problem," he said. "NALC believes that leader is Senator Hillary Clinton."



Opposite page: President William H. Young (at podium) leads the NALC Executive Council in a letter-carrier cheer for Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Above: Young explains NALC's democratic endorsement process to Clinton before the press event.

Right: Clinton thanks NALC for its endorsement.

Below: Young presents Clinton with an NALC T-shirt.

Photos by Linda Temple (opposite page) and Mike Shea



Clinton, the former first lady now serving her second term in the Senate, was the overwhelming favorite in a postcard preference poll of all active and retired NALC members. The postcard was included in the August *Postal Record*, which is sent to every member. The results were tallied as the 28-member Executive Council was convening in Washington for a week-long meeting (see page 6).

While the Council took the formal action, Young said, "Our members made this decision. We asked our members who we should support for president and they answered loud and clear—Senator Clinton was their choice by a 2-to-1 margin over each of her closest rivals. There was no doubt she was the winner."

Clinton, who stood alongside Young as he made the announcement, told an audience of letter carriers and well-wishers in Hutchins Hall, "This endorsement for me is a real vote of confidence from people whom I respect and admire, who really matter to our country."

The senator vowed that as president she would defend letter carrier jobs against outsourcing, protect the Postal Service from efforts to subvert its universal mission, and help labor unions rebuild a secure economic foundation for America's middle class.

### Endorsement process

President Young explained that the union sent questionnaires to 17 announced Republi-

can and Democratic presidential candidates, but only seven responded, all Democrats. Their answers appeared in the August issue of the magazine along with the postcard ballot. Candidates who did not respond disqualified themselves from the survey.

"Given their answers, we could have supported any one of the seven" who replied, Young said, citing Sens. Joe Biden, Chris Dodd and Barack Obama, as well as former Sen. John Edwards, as examples. But he said it was not surprising that Clinton came out on top because her strong record on postal issues, workers' rights, health care and pension protection made her stand out as a catalyst for change.

In delivering the endorsement, Young told Clinton, "In the primary elections next year, you can count on letter carriers to deliver for you, and I am confident that in the years to come, you too will deliver for America as the next president of the United States."

Young noted that Clinton was a strong supporter of postal reform and was among the first to support legislation to prohibit the contracting out of carrier jobs. He added, "There is nobody better prepared to take up the battle for universal health insurance, and there is no one I would trust more than Senator Clinton to strengthen Social Security."



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**'We need a leader who sees the labor movement as the solution, not the problem.'**

**Excerpts from President Young's statement on NALC's endorsement of Sen. Hillary Clinton**

**O**ur members made this decision. We asked our members who we should support for president and they answered, loud and clear—Senator Clinton was their choice by a 2-to-1 margin over her closest rivals.... It was no surprise (she) came out on top—not when you know her record on the issues that matter most to us, like postal reform, contracting out, health care, Social Security and many more.

I got to know the senator in 1993.... She was locked in a bitter battle, trying to reform our health care system. A lot of Washington pundits criticized her efforts. Some say she failed, but our members know the truth. Back then, 33 million Americans, mostly from

families headed by working people, lacked health insurance. Today, that number has grown to 47 million and soaring health care costs threaten to destroy entire industries. Now, you tell me who failed—Senator Clinton or the vested interests that killed reform?

...[W]ith her seven years in the Senate, she has...grown into a leader who demands attention and respect. Today, she has what only experience can give you—toughness and a solid grasp on the reality of how Washington works, how the world works and how American democracy works. She is ready to lead this country from her first day in the White House.

Letter carriers know what I know: We need to change the direction of this country. We need a leader who is smart and tough. We need a leader who cares about Wall Street and Main Street. We need a leader who sees the labor movement as the solution, not the problem.

We need a president who understands that a competent government is vital to America's economic future. For us, that means maintaining the most affordable and efficient universal postal service in the world. And it means rebuilding our national infrastructure, strengthening our disaster response, and using diplomacy and America's traditional commitment to human rights and justice to address the global threats of terrorism and climate change. ☐



**Above: Film crews and reporters from CNN, Fox News and United Press International, among others, covered the event.**

**Below: NALC members and well-wishers sat in the audience.**

**Photos by Joe Conway (above and below) and Mike Shea**



**'When I'm president, we are going to stop contracting out our government.'**

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With the entire Executive Council arrayed behind her on stage, Clinton congratulated the union on the overwhelming ratification of a new five-year National Agreement and noted that political pressure on the contracting out issue was a key factor in forging the accord. "I know that was a result of President Young's leadership and so much effort to build congressional support. I want to say a job well done," she said.

The senator's remarks included a wide-ranging attack on the current administration, with special attention to postal issues.

"You have seen firsthand what the administration is trying to do to the Postal Service. You've seen how over the past six-and-a-half years they have steadily outsourced critical government functions to private companies," Clinton said, vowing to reverse that trend if elected.

"The administration wants to take the Postal Service—one of the most successful, efficient and trusted agencies in our government—and undermine it by outsourcing delivery services," she said, drawing laughter when she added, "This administration's motto seems to be, 'If it ain't broke, we haven't tried hard enough yet.'"

Pointing to her co-sponsorship of Sen. Tom Harkin's legislation that would outlaw most new contract delivery, she declared, "As president, I will stand with you in this fight." ☒



**Excerpts from Sen. Clinton's remarks accepting NALC's endorsement**

**A**mericans every day rely on your professional, dependable, indispensable service.... You are everywhere in America and because of that, America is stronger.... You see, beyond all of the rhetoric, what is actually going on in our country....

I know how hard you fight. (Letter carriers) led the fight for an eight-hour work day, and you won. You fought for the very first workers' compensation law, and you won. You fought for fair pensions, and you won. Time and again, you fought not only for yourselves, but because of your work, the effects reached out to everyone, people who might not ever know the work of the letter carriers that made a difference in their lives....

The union movement (is) one of the principle reasons we have an American middle class.... With all due respect, rich people did not create America and the American dream. You can find rich people anywhere in the world. It's hard-working people, it's the American middle class, who made that difference....

[W]e've had six-and-a-half years in this administration where workers are invisible and unions are something we don't even talk about.... Too long, people

have been invisible to the president. You're trying to work for better wages or safer working conditions, you're invisible. You're a single mom, trying to keep body and soul together, you can't find affordable child care, you're invisible. You don't have health care, you're invisible. Some company has just gotten rid of your pension, you're invisible. We are going to end that. With your help, when I'm president, there are will be no invisible Americans....

The administration wants to take the Postal Service, one of the most successful, efficient and trusted agencies in our government, and undermine it by outsourcing delivery services.... As a senator, I am a proud cosponsor of Senator Tom Harkin's Mail Delivery Protection Act. That's why, as president, I will stand with you in this fight. When I'm president, we are going to stop contracting out our government....

I want us to start acting like Americans again. Let's roll up our sleeves. Let's do what has worked so well for us for so long as a nation, moving with confidence and optimism into the future. I am absolutely sure we can do this together. ☒