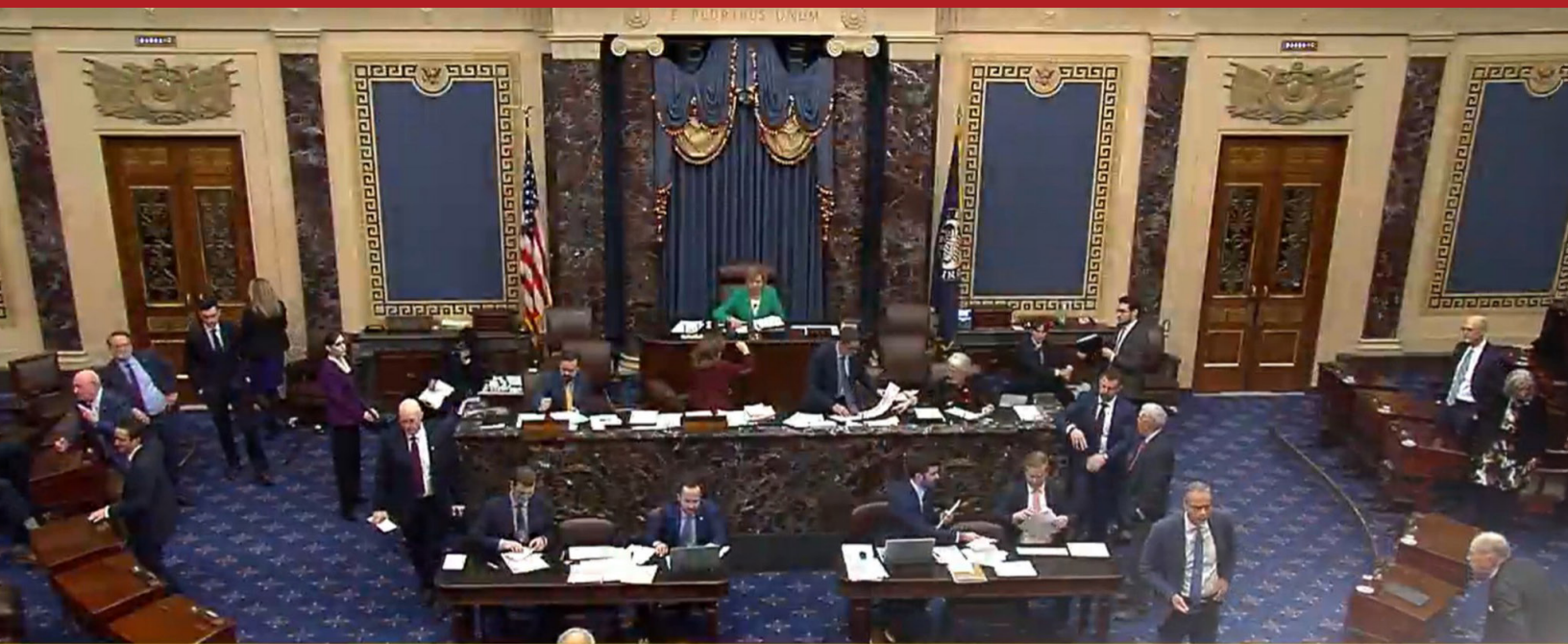


NALC Bulletin

Number 24-15

Dec. 23, 2024



YEA 76 NAY 20

H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act



Senate passes Social Security Fairness Act; sent to President Biden's desk

On Dec. 21, in a 76-20 vote, the Senate passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82). Senate passage came after the House overwhelmingly passed the bill on Nov. 12. As this edition of the *NALC Bulletin* was going to press, the bill was being sent to President Joe Biden's desk, where it was expected he would sign it into law.

"This is a massive victory for letter carriers and our fellow public servants," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "For the first time in decades, affected CSRS retired letter carriers won't have their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced. They, alongside thousands of other public service annuitants, will finally receive justice by receiving the full benefits that they earned."

"I want to congratulate and thank every NALC member who lobbied their members of Congress to get this bill through the House and Senate. Our union has worked for years to repeal the WEP and GPO. Thanks to the unwavering dedication and advocacy of our members, this repeal is finally being signed into law."

The Social Security Fairness Act will repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). These are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduced, or sometimes eliminated, Social Security benefits of certain Civil Service Retirement System federal annuitants, including letter carriers. For letter carriers' long history with WEP and GPO, see the January 2025 edition of *The Postal Record*.

Update on contract ratification election

Beginning on Dec. 9, active letter carriers eligible to vote in the contract ratification process were mailed a ballot to vote on the proposed 2023-2026 National Agreement between NALC and USPS. Mailing of ballots to the 185,894 eligible active letter carriers was completed on Dec. 16.

Included in the mailing are a letter from NALC President Brian L. Renfroe; a booklet containing all the contractual language changes in the tentative National Agreement; a summary of the tentative National Agreement provisions; a ballot and secrecy envelope; a return envelope; and instructions for casting a vote. For a ballot to be counted, it must be received by Jan. 13, 2025.

Regular members, excluding retirees, OWCP departees, and non-letter carrier regular members, as of 90 days prior to Oct. 17, the date the tentative National Agreement was reached, are eligible to vote in the contract ratification election, per Article 16 of the *NALC Constitution*. If you are eligible to vote on the proposed agreement and have not received a ballot, call NALC Headquarters at 202-393-0614 (9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Eastern time) to request a replacement ballot. A replacement ballot will be mailed after your eligibility is verified.

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