Jan. 6, 2025



President Biden signs Social Security Fairness Act; WEP and GPO repealed

On Jan. 5, President Joe Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) into law, delivering a hardfought victory for letter carriers and public servants across the nation. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on Dec. 20 and the House on Nov. 12, will ensure that affected Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees no longer face unfair reductions in their Social Security benefits.

"The passage of the Social Security Fairness Act is a monumental win for retired letter carriers and other public servants, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they've earned and deserve," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the House and Senate, and especially to the NALC members who fought tirelessly to make this law a reality."

The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including letter carriers.

As he prepared to sign the bill into law, President Biden thanked labor leaders and reflected, saying, "Today is a victory for the dignity of work and the dignity of workers."

With this landmark legislation now signed into law, public servants who have dedicated their careers to serving the country will no longer face unjust financial penalties, ensuring they receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned.

For more on NALC's long fight to repeal WEP and GPO, see the January issue of *The Postal Record*. NALC will be in touch with more information regarding the enactment and timing of these changes for affected members.

Deadline for contract ratification ballot returns extended to Jan. 27

On Jan. 2, the 15-member Ballot Committee, chaired by Paul Roznowski of Branch 3126, Royal Oak, MI, released the following statement:

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.

Due to delays in the Postal Service delivering ballots in some locations and to ensure adequate time for replacement ballots to be delivered and returned, the deadline for receiving returned ballots in the contract ratification election has been extended. **To be counted, ballots must now be received by Jan. 27, 2025.** The previous deadline was Jan. 13.

If you are eligible to vote on the proposed agreement and have not received a ballot, you may 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 eligibility is verified.

National Association of Letter Carriers

100 Indiana Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001-2144 202-393-4695 | www.nalc.org

Brian L. Renfroe, President

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Philip Dine, Director of Communications and Media Relations Mike Shea, Managing Editor Rick Hodges, Writer/Editor Jenessa Wagner, Writer/Editor Sarah Eccleston, Editorial Assistant NALC Bulletin is published semi-regularly by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

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