

What's at stake in the election?



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Every day, through enormous challenges at the bargaining table and beyond, I think about what is best for our members.

As I look toward what is at stake in next month's election, that is exactly what is top of mind.

That is why on the second day of our union's 73rd Biennial Convention in Boston, nearly 5,500 delegates from across the country voted overwhelmingly to pass a resolution endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris to serve as the next president of the United States. The endorsement came on the same day that Vice President Harris selected Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate.

The resolution, which was submitted by the Executive Council, lays out Vice President Harris's pro-postal and pro-labor record and outlines her commitment to continuing these policies if elected president. The full text of the resolution is available on page 11, and you can read an in-depth background story on Harris and Walz on page 10.

Every election cycle, NALC carefully considers the candidates, their records, and how their leadership will affect letter carriers and the Postal Service. This year, we are faced with a consequential presidential election with two well-known candidates—Vice President Harris and former President Donald J. Trump. When evaluating the two candidates, it is evident who has the background, record and plan that we need in the White House in 2025 and beyond. Vice President Harris clearly provides NALC with the best opportunity to advance our legislative and policy agenda.

Make no mistake, every administration brings challenges for letter carriers, whether there is a Republican or a Democrat in the White House. It's easy to find fault in the three most recent administrations for failing to use their authority to properly and fairly calculate postal pensions. A fairer calculation would have a tremendous financial impact and result in a massive surplus in our pension account, which would also benefit our Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. A fairer calculation is widely supported in the stakeholder community, and it is desperately needed for the agency to invest in its workforce and network. It is the single most important action any administration can take to increase financial stability. Our only chance to accomplish this is to elect Kamala Harris as president.

Vice President Harris's commitments to the Postal Service, working families, strengthening our democracy, protecting

voting and civil rights, and upholding the rule of law stand in stark contrast to her opponent. As president and again as a candidate in this election, former President Trump has demonstrated his unrelenting hostility to the Postal Service and its employees.

As president, not only did he refuse to act on postal pensions, but he also proposed privatizing the Postal Service, repealing postal employees' collective-bargaining rights, and making deep cuts to federal employee pensions and health benefits. To date, he has continued to spread misinformation about the Postal Service and vote-by-mail, already working to cast doubt on the Postal Service's capabilities and the validity of the upcoming election. In fact, I am writing this just days after the recent presidential debate, where the former president refused to accept the 2020 election results and would not confirm that he would accept the results of this year's election.

As this issue was going to print, the former president took to social media to call into question the Postal Service, its employees, and our ability to safely and securely deliver ballots. It is obvious that he is laying the groundwork for election-integrity doubters and deniers. This rhetoric is completely antithetical to our democratic system and extremely dangerous, especially for letter carriers who continue delivering to every community nationwide.

Any insinuation that our members are not ready or willing to meet the demands of this year's election is insulting and unacceptable. Such ideas are misguided and entirely false. Despite all the challenges letter carriers face, we proudly and successfully perform our duties, including ensuring safe and secure ballot access for millions of voters.

Letter carriers recall the events of Jan. 6, when the peaceful transfer of power was threatened. This day will forever be a dark and violent stamp on the history of our democracy, and the fact that one presidential candidate still refuses to say that the current election will be accepted as legitimate should alarm us all. Make no mistake about it, democracy is on the line.

When you cast your vote in this election, I encourage NALC members to keep all of this in mind. But most importantly, regardless of whom you support, please make sure you have a plan to vote.

On pages 13-15, you can find important voting deadlines for your state, and for more information, you can visit nalc.org/vote. There, you can access our voter guide, which includes deadlines, volunteer opportunities, and information on where current members of Congress stand on a sampling of NALC's issues. I encourage all letter carriers to use this resource before Election Day to educate themselves, get involved, ensure they are registered to vote, and have a plan to vote.