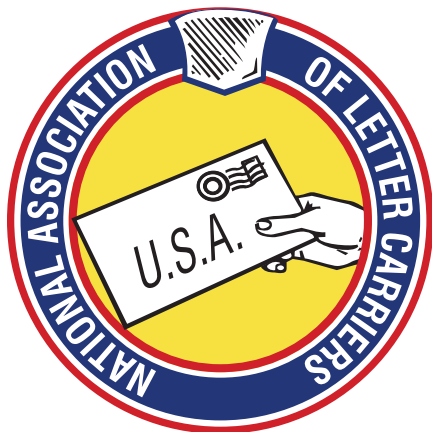


Membership rejects tentative collective-bargaining agreement; interest arbitration next step



The active membership of the National Association of Letter Carriers voted to reject the ratification of the tentative 2023-2026 National Agreement with the United States Postal Service. The vote was 63,680 to reject the agreement versus 26,304 to accept it, as reported by NALC's Ballot Committee Chairman **Paul Roznowski** of Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126. The 15-member Ballot Committee monitored and observed the dispatch, receipt and tabulation of the ratification ballot conducted by two independent companies: MOSAIC of Cheverly, MD, and Survey and Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie, MN.

On Jan. 31, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe issued the following statement regarding the vote on the 2023-2026 National Agreement with the United States Postal Service:

NALC has notified the Postal Service of the result of the ratification balloting and our intent to reopen negotiations within five (5) days in accordance with Article 16 of the *NALC Constitution*. Negotiations will not exceed a period of fifteen (15) calendar days from when they are reopened. The NALC Executive Council will meet to discuss whether to send a second ballot to each member for ratification or rejection of a potential new tentative agreement or to proceed to binding interest arbitration. Under the law, decisions of that arbitration board would be final and binding upon the parties.

In a democratic vote, the will of NALC's membership has been made clear—the tentative agreement that represented the best offer the Postal Service put on the table is not good enough for America's city letter carriers. We have earned more and we deserve more.

We will negotiate in good faith with the Postal Service at the bargaining table during the limited timeframe set forth in the *NALC Constitution*. We call on the Postal Service to do the same. As I made clear since the

very beginning of this process, NALC is well prepared to fight like hell for a better contract in interest arbitration, and that is exactly what we will do if the Postal Service is unwilling to reach agreement on terms that fairly compensate and reward our members.

On Feb. 19, the NALC Executive Council met to consider the progress made during the 15-day negotiation period that followed the reopening of contract negotiations with the Postal Service on Feb. 3, pursuant to Article 16 of the *NALC Constitution*. The Council voted unanimously to not agree to terms with the Postal Service that would have produced a modified tentative agreement to be sent to eligible members for a second ratification vote. NALC notified USPS officials that the parties are now at impasse on the terms of a new collective-bargaining agreement.

The parties' ongoing dispute over the terms of a new agreement will now be decided in the interest arbitration process. The parties have selected Arbitrator Dennis R. Nolan to serve as the chairman of the three-person arbitration panel. Information on hearing dates for interest arbitration will be shared as soon as the schedule is confirmed.

"While there was some movement on the issues that matter to letter carriers during this 15-day period of good-faith bargaining, it was not enough to produce a fair contract for the active members of NALC. We have been preparing our case for interest arbitration since before we officially opened this round of contract negotiations," President Renfroe said. "We have built a strong case, and we will fight like hell in interest arbitration to achieve the best collective-bargaining agreement for letter carriers that the process can produce." **PR**