



ELECTION ENTERS FINAL STRETCH

As this issue of *The Postal Record* was mailed, the races for president, the House of Representatives and 33 Senate seats were in their final week.

“If you’re reading this on or before Election Day, Nov. 6, I urge you to exercise your right as an American to vote—a right people fought, and some died, to protect,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. Rolando urged letter carriers to vote early or by absentee vote if work, long lines at the polls or traffic could interfere. “The stakes for our jobs, our families and our economy are as high as they’ve ever been.”

As reported in the last two issues of *The Postal Record*, Mitt Romney and his running mate, Paul Ryan, have made their contempt for unions and working people, especially federal workers, very clear. Romney said that GM should have been allowed to go bankrupt rather than the federal government helping the automaker stay on its feet in 2009 during the recession. He supports drastic cuts in the federal workforce, and cuts in pay and benefits for federal workers. He once urged Republicans to fight “the tyrannosaurus appetite of government unions.”

The August *Postal Record* discussed Ryan’s efforts to deeply slash federal spending, including reductions in federal worker pay and retirement benefits, layoffs of federal employees and cuts to safety-net and retiree programs like Medicare.

At the NALC’s national convention in Minneapolis in July, the delegates voted to endorse Barack Obama for president. While Obama hasn’t been perfect in his first term, he is willing to listen to letter carriers and supports labor overall, defending unions from the aggressive, take-no-prisoners tactics staged by many Republicans in Congress and in states including Wisconsin and Ohio. Romney eagerly supported efforts to destroy collective

bargaining for public workers in both of those states, and is on record as supporting a national “right to work” law imposed on all 50 states, further weakening unions. Obama fully supports collective-bargaining rights and legislation to remove unfair barriers to organizing a union and has appointed labor-friendly members to the National Labor Relations Board and the National Mediation Board.

Both candidates have focused most of their campaign efforts in the swing states, but that doesn’t mean voting isn’t important in other states. Election Day is about more than the White House. All 435 seats of the House of Representatives and a third of the seats in the Senate are up for grabs, too. The election results for Congress—especially the Senate, where the Democrats hold a shaky majority—will have an equal impact on letter carriers. The postal crisis is likely to finally push the new Congress to act on postal reform legislation in 2013—but depending on whose vision it follows, the outcome could be either relief or disaster for us.

In the final days of the election season, letter carriers were busy volunteering to help the Obama campaign and House and Senate candidates endorsed by the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE). Using voluntary donations from letter carriers, COLCPE helps candidates, including Democrats, Republicans and independents, who will stand with letter carriers when our issues come up on Capitol Hill.

A list of candidates supported by COLCPE was published in the September issue of *The Postal Record*. They also are listed on NALC’s special Election 2012 section of the website, nalc.org/depart/legpol/election2012.html, along with resources for activists, past videos and articles and state-by-state information on candidates and elections. ☒

**Election day
is Tuesday,
Nov. 6**