

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Legislative Updates

Bipartisan infrastructure bill passes in House, vote expected on Build Back Better Act

Nov 09, 2021

On Friday, the House passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ([H.R. 3684](#)), a \$1.2 trillion bill that invests in roads, bridges, airports, transit, rail, broadband, electric charging stations, power grid modernization and clean drinking water. The bill includes \$550 billion of new spending over five years. Specifically, it includes \$110 billion in funding for roads and bridges, \$39 billion to modernize and improve public transportation, \$25 billion for airports, \$17 billion for ports and waterways, \$65 billion for reliable high-speed internet access, \$55 billion for clean water, \$7.5 billion for a network of electric vehicle charging stations and \$65 billion for the nation's power grid.

"This landmark legislation will create millions of good-paying American jobs and make a lasting difference in our communities: strengthening our roads and bridges, improving public transit, expanding broadband, ensuring clean drinking water for every child and more," Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said.

The Senate passed the bill in August, and the 228-206 House vote sent the bill to President Biden's desk, which he is expected to sign into law soon. 13 Republicans supported the bipartisan bill: Don Bacon (R-NE), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH), John Katko (R-NY), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), David McKinley (R-WV), Tom Reed (R-NY), Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Fred Upton (R-MI), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ) and Don Young (R-AK). Six Democrats, who called on the bill to be considered in parallel with the Build Back Better Act ([H.R. 5376](#)), voted no. They are Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), Cori Bush (D-MO), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI).

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a major win for the White House, and lawmakers are now focusing on another part of President Biden's agenda, the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act, a package that includes funding to support the nation's education system, climate provisions, healthcare and tax laws. Notably, this bill would provide \$2.5 billion for the Postal Service to acquire electric vehicles and provide an additional \$3.4 billion for the necessary infrastructure to support these vehicles.

The House plans to hold a vote on H.R. 5376 next week. With the passage of the infrastructure bill and action expected on the budget reconciliation package, NALC is hopeful that lawmakers will call postal reform legislation to the floor soon. The bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act ([H.R. 3076/S.1720](#)), a bill that aims to provide financial and operational stability to the Postal Service, was introduced in May and remains one of

NALC's top priorities. Following a vote on the Build Back Better Act, which includes critical funding for the Postal Service, NALC calls on Congress to take action and pass bipartisan postal reform.

Legislative framework of Build Back Better Act released, NALC applauds vehicle money

Oct 29, 2021

Yesterday, House Democratic Leadership released the new framework for the Build Back Better Act ([H.R. 5376](#)), a sweeping social spending and tax package. The new framework is based on the \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Agenda that President Biden released earlier the same day. While this framework is a minimized version of the \$3.5 trillion package originally released, it was presented as a compromise that Democratic lawmakers can move through Congress.

Related to the Postal Service, the framework includes funding to electrify the agency's vehicle fleet. It would provide \$2.5 billion for the Postal Service to acquire electric vehicles and provide an additional \$3.4 billion for the necessary infrastructure to support these vehicles. Additionally, it would provide \$15 million for the Office of the Inspector General of the Postal Service to perform oversight of the agency.

"NALC appreciates the funding in the Build Back Better Act to electrify the Postal Service vehicle fleet," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "This essential funding will provide letter carriers with the new vehicles that they need. We urge members of Congress to support this legislation and send it to the president's desk."

Overall, the package includes funding to support the nation's education system, climate provisions, healthcare and tax laws. The framework includes \$400 billion for universal, free preschool for three- and four-year olds and would extend the child tax credit through 2022. It provides funding to combat climate change including \$320 billion in consumer rebates and tax credits for clean energy and electrification. \$35 billion would be provided for a Medicare hearing benefit and the framework would extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits through 2025.

The framework proposes offsetting these costs by increasing taxes for large corporations and Americans who make more than \$400,000 annually. The plan would place a 15% corporate minimum tax on corporations that earn more than \$1 billion annually. It would also place a 1% surcharge on corporate stock buybacks. Additionally, the framework calls for investments in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to improve tax enforcement and auditing on the wealthiest Americans, raising a projected \$400 billion.

Paid family and medical leave, Medicare expansion to cover dental and vision, and other programs are notably excluded from the new framework. However, progressive House Democrats have said they will support the bill when it comes to the floor. While Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) remains focused on holding a vote on the bipartisan

Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act ([H.R. 3684](#)), another important part of the White House's agenda, these progressive Democrats have said they will only consider it alongside a vote on the Build Back Better Act.

Negotiations regarding the Build Back Better framework are ongoing, and certain elements are likely to change. NALC will continue to monitor this legislation and update letter carriers on any future action.

Congress passes legislation to increase debt limit

Oct 15, 2021

On Tuesday, House members voted 219-206 on a rule ([H. Res. 716](#)) that cleared a bill that passed in the Senate last week ([S. 1301](#)) to raise the debt limit with an extension that expires on Dec. 3. President Biden signed the bill into law yesterday.

The bill raises the nation's borrowing authority by \$480 billion, avoiding a default on the country's debt. While this is a short-term bipartisan fix, it leaves much work to be done on addressing the debt ceiling, which Republican lawmakers have said Democrats must do on their own. The debt limit and government funding will both expire on Dec. 3.

"The Democratic House has taken action to honor our responsibility to address the priority of the debt limit," Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said. "We have done so because this is about protecting families. The failure to lift the debt limit could result in a loss of up to six million jobs, the elimination of \$15 trillion in household wealth and drastic increases in the cost of loans, car loans, mortgages, student loans, credit card bills and other borrowing."

The vote to increase the debt limit allows lawmakers to temporarily shift their focus back to other priority legislation, including the bipartisan Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act ([H.R. 3684](#)) and the \$3.5 budget reconciliation package, both critical parts of the administration's Build Back Better agenda. While negotiations are ongoing, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) have said they plan to hold votes on these bills by Oct. 31.

H.R. 3684 would provide funding for investments in roads, bridges, airports, transit, rail, broadband, electric charging stations, power grid modernization and clean drinking water. The budget reconciliation package notably includes \$7 billion in proposed funding to electrify the Postal Service vehicle fleet and provide the necessary infrastructure to support these vehicles.

NALC is monitoring these pieces of legislation and will update letter carriers on any future action.



NALC Priority Congressional Bills and Resolutions

Below are bills of note for NALC that have been introduced in the 117th Congress. This page will be updated regularly as bills are introduced.

House Bills

Postal Reform Act of 2021 - [H.R. 3076](#)

Status: Introduced by Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and James Comer (R-KY) and ordered to be reported to the House of Representatives on May 13, 2021

Co-sponsors: 92 (53 Democrats – 39 Republicans)

To provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

USPS Fairness Act - [H.R. 695](#)

Status: Introduced February 2, 2021 by Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Tom Reed (R-NY), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Collin Allred (D-TX)

Co-sponsors: 276 (217 Democrats – 59 Republicans)

To repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits.

Social Security Fairness Act - [H.R. 82](#)

Status: Introduced January 4, 2021

Co-sponsors: 235 (178 Democrats – 57 Republicans)

To repeal provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

House Resolutions

House Resolution 109 ([H. Res. 109](#)) – Door Delivery

Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) and David Joyce (R-OH)

[Co-sponsors](#): 153 (125 Democrats – 28 Republicans)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

House Resolution 47 ([H. Res. 47](#)) – Anti-privatization

Status: Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rodney Davis (R-IL)

[Co-sponsors](#): 181 (159 Democrats – 22 Republicans)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.

House Resolution 114 ([H. Res. 114](#)) - Six-Day Delivery

Status: Introduced by Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)

[Co-sponsors](#): 156 (97 Democrats – 59 Republicans)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

House Resolution 119 ([H. Res. 119](#)) - Service Standards

Status: Introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

[Co-sponsors](#): 134 (114 Democrats – 20 Republicans)

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.

Senate Bills

Postal Reform Act of 2021 - [S. 1720](#)

Status: Introduced by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Rob Portman (R-OH) on May 19, 2021

[Co-sponsors](#): 27 (14 Democrats – 12 Republicans - 1 Independent)

To provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

USPS Fairness Act - [S. 145](#)

Status: Introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI)

[Co-sponsors](#): 10 (5 Democrats – 5 Republicans)

To repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits.