

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Legislative Updates

Congress funds government through Dec. 3, negotiations continue on priority legislation

Oct 01, 2021

The House and the Senate passed a continuing resolution yesterday to fund the government until December 3. President Biden signed the continuing resolution into law hours before the midnight deadline to avoid a government shutdown.

This short-term fix includes funding to sustain federal agencies until the December 3 deadline, as well \$28.6 billion in aid to respond to recent hurricanes and wildfires and \$6.3 billion to help resettle refugees from Afghanistan.

The passage of the continuing resolution comes during a very busy week on Capitol Hill. While the House passed a measure to raise the nation's borrowing authority (debt limit) earlier this week, Senate Republicans have blocked two such measures. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said he plans to hold another vote next week in advance of the October 18 deadline to avoid the country's first default on its debt.

Additionally, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has been focused on holding a vote on the bipartisan Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act ([H.R. 3684](#)), which would provide funding for investments in roads, bridges, airports, transit, rail, broadband, electric vehicle charging stations, power grid modernization and clean drinking water. After a long night of negotiations, a vote on the measure remains in limbo. While moderate Democrats are prioritizing the bipartisan infrastructure bill, progressive Democrats have said they will not consider it without parallel consideration of the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package currently being crafted as a part of the President's Build Back Better agenda.

NALC is closely monitoring these pieces of legislation, specifically, \$7 billion in proposed funding to electrify the Postal Service vehicle fleet and provide the necessary infrastructure to support those vehicles. This critical funding for the Postal Service will fund new vehicles for letter carriers, help combat climate change, and achieve priorities included in President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda as well as Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's Delivering for America Plan.

NALC will update letter carriers on any future action.

NALC supports critical investment in postal infrastructure

Sep 29, 2021

NALC strongly supports the \$7 billion in federal funding for the electrification of the Postal Service vehicle fleet that is included in the reconciliation package.

The aging postal vehicle fleet is in desperate need of modernization. This key investment to electrify the Postal Service fleet will fund new vehicles for letter carriers, help combat climate change, and achieve priorities included in President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda as well as Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's Delivering for America Plan. Letter carriers deliver to every American household and business six or seven days a week. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans have relied on the Postal Service for their paychecks, medications and other essential deliveries. The Postal Service remains a crucial part of the American economy and investment in the agency, its workers, and infrastructure is essential.

As members of Congress actively work on finalizing the budget reconciliation package and bring it to the floor for a vote, NALC urges all members to vote in support of this critical funding for the Postal Service.

NALC will update letter carriers on any future action.

Freedom to Vote Act introduced in Senate

Sep 15, 2021

Today, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced the Freedom to Vote Act ([S. 2747](#)), a bill to expand voting rights and reduce the influence of big money in politics. The bill is cosponsored by Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Angus King (I-ME), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Jon Tester (D-MT), and Raphael Warnock (D-GA). The bill includes several measures to address voter access and election administration. The bill would ensure that all voters could request a mail-in ballot, improve the delivery of election mail, and apply minimum standards to ensure drop boxes are available and accessible to all voters. Additionally, the legislation would implement automatic voter registration, make Election Day a federal holiday, allow same day voter registration, and expand early voting.

The bill also includes measures to improve election integrity through the protection of election records, infrastructure, and ballot tabulation. It would also task the Election Assistance Commission with developing training and recruitment programs for non-partisan election officials. The bill would prohibit partisan gerrymandering and would require super PACs and other organizations that spend money in elections to disclose donors.

"With the Freedom to Vote Act, the entire voting rights working group, including Senators Manchin and Merkley, is united behind legislation that will set basic national standards to make sure all Americans can cast their ballots in the way that works best for them, regardless of what zip code they live in," Senator Klobuchar said. "This bill will ensure Americans can request a mail-in ballot, have at least 15 days of early voting, and can register to vote on Election Day."

Overall, S. 2747 is a scaled-back, narrower voting rights package than the For the People Act ([H.R. 1/S. 1](#)), which passed in the House earlier this year but was blocked by Senate Republicans. The Freedom to Vote Act has the majority support; however, without the backing of any Republican Senators, it is unlikely to receive the 60 votes needed to bypass the Senate filibuster. NALC will continue to monitor this legislation.



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: 74 (44 Democrats – 30 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: 275 (217 Democrats – 58 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: 228 (174 Democrats – 54 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: 148 (121 Democrats – 27 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: 175 (154 Democrats – 21 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: 152 (93 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: 127 (107 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.