

## WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES THREE NOMINEES TO THE POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The current Postal Board of Governors (BOG) is comprised of only two members, namely Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Deputy Postmaster General Ron Stroman. When fully constituted, the BOG should encompass eleven members, with the nine missing members subject to nomination by the President and confirmation by the Senate.

In October 2017, President Trump submitted the names of three potential candidates. The three nominees are former Postal Service Inspector General David Williams; Pennsylvania resident and businessman Calvin Tucker; and past Republican National Committee Chairman Robert Duncan, who is also affiliated with a major political action committee (the Crossroads PAC) that supports Republican candidates for federal office. The nominees were referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which is supposed to schedule thorough hearings and then send the nominees to the full Senate for an up or down vote.

## POLITICAL SCENE

On November 6, 2018, our country will have our midterms elections, with 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives

and 34 members of the U.S. Senate up for reelection. As of early February 2018, 38 Republican incumbents have decided to either retire or seek higher office, and that number should continue to grow. Political pundits believe that, with President Trump's record low approval ratings, the number of incumbents leaving office could switch control of the House to the Democratic Party.

The result of Alabama's special election in December 2017, with Democrat Doug Jones defeating former Judge Roy Moore, the Senate now is controlled by the Republicans with only a small, two-member majority. However, the Democrats have 26 seats they must defend this year, while the Republicans need only to defend 8 seats. The doomsday feelings that many Democrats have felt until recently have subsided somewhat, with observers believing that President Trump's low approval ratings also could help some Senate Democrats to keep their seats.

If you or family members are not registered to vote, please check with the Secretary of State's office in your State, where you can register and find the dates to which you must adhere to vote in this year's primary and general elections.

Become part of the solution and vote for the candidates that support working families and a strong and vibrant U.S. Postal Service.

# U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL ISSUES HATCH ACT GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**O**n February 13, 2018, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which is the federal agency charged with enforcing the Hatch Act applicable to federal or postal employees, issued written guidance concerning the use of social media under the Hatch Act. This guidance was released in conjunction with a 50-day suspension without pay of a Postal Service employee for posting 116 partisan political postings or messages on his Facebook account, while on duty, which conduct reportedly occurred shortly after the employee received Hatch Act training.

The guidance comes with two written products, including one that contains real world examples such as the following: "You stay at work during your lunch break and check Facebook on your personal cell phone. A Facebook friend posted a message about an upcoming event supporting a candidate in a partisan race. Even if you are not in a pay

status during your lunch break, you may not like or share that post while you are in the workplace."

As the 2018 mid-term elections approach, it is imperative for all employees to be aware of the limitations imposed by The Hatch Act. Generally stated, employees may not engage in political activity while on duty or in the workplace. Political activity is an activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group.

With the proliferation of social media, and in response to numerous questions, the OSC was compelled to issue the "Hatch Act Guidance on Social Media" and the "Social Media Quick Guide" to illustrate how social media and the Hatch Act intersect. Mail Handlers are encouraged to review the guide (see page 14) and take all steps to avoid non-compliance, as the penalties can be severe.

# HATCH ACT SOCIAL MEDIA QUICK GUIDE

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS QUICK GUIDE IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE.  
FOR COMPLETE GUIDANCE, SEE **HATCH ACT GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**.

## FOR ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Social Media Action	May Not Do Anytime	May Not Do on Duty or at Work	May Do Anytime
1. Like, share, or retweet a post that solicits political contributions, including invitations to fundraising events	X		
2. Post or tweet a message that solicits political contributions or invites people to a fundraising event	X		
3. Use an alias on social media to solicit a political contribution for a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
4. Use a social media account designated for official purposes to post or share messages directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
5. Engage in political activity on a personal social media account if you use such an account for official purposes or post in your official capacity	X		
6. Send to subordinates, or a subset of friends that includes subordinates, any message that is directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
7. Use your official title or position when posting messages directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
8. Post, like, share, or retweet a message in support of or opposition to a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group		X	
9. Like, follow, or friend the social media account of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group		X	
10. Use an alias on social media to engage in any activity that is directed at the success or failure of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group		X	
11. Accept invitations to, or mark yourself as “attending,” a fundraising event on social media		X	
12. Include your official title or position and where you work in your social media profile, even if you also include your political affiliation or otherwise use your account to engage in political activity			X
13. Continue to follow, be friends with, or like the official social media accounts of government officials after they become candidates for reelection			X

## FOR FURTHER RESTRICTED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ONLY

Social Media Action	May Not Do Anytime	May Not Do on Duty or at Work	May Do Anytime
1. Share or retweet posts from, or the page of, a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
2. Link to campaign or partisan material of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group	X		
3. Post to or like the social media accounts or messages of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group		X	
4. Engage in political activity on social media that is not done in concert with or on behalf of a political party, candidate in a partisan race, or partisan political group		X	