

LEGISLATION: WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

As the 114th Congress nears its conclusion at the end of this calendar year, the NPMHU still is hopeful that Congress will be able to pass progressive postal legislation that the Union can support. President Hogrogian has made clear, both in public statements and in private discussions, that what is needed is comprehensive legislation that grows the business without further delaying the service standards or further decimating the postal infrastructure. Legislative solution also must fix the unfair issue relating to prefunding the Retiree Health Benefits Plan.

The four union presidents representing the NPMHU, the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, and the National Rural Letter Carriers, as well as key players from the mailing industry and the Postmaster General, have been discussing with Congress precisely what is necessary to reach the above goal.

In the most recent edition of the Mail Handler magazine, there was a full discussion of Senate Bill S.2051, already introduced by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE). That legislation — named as the Improving Postal Operation, Service, and Transparency Act or iPost — contains provisions that the NPMHU can support, but also has several sections that must be opposed by the Union. At best, therefore, it is serving as a marker or a starting point that we hope can be amended and improved through hard work in the legislative process.

The NPMHU still is waiting for companion or similar legislation to be introduced in the House of Representative's Oversight and Government Reform Committee. A hearing was held on postal reform by the House Committee on May 11, 2016, chaired by Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). The hearing shed some light on a possible House bill and what might be included in it, but as of the printing of this article, no draft bill has been circulated. President Hogrogian has stated that the NPMHU will review any House bill before commenting on or committing to support such legislation. The key is whether the bill contains the four or five key items that will fix the unfair financial situation faced by the Postal Service, while allowing the USPS to grow its business.

President Hogrogian and his counterparts in the other postal unions have been asking both the Senate and the House leadership to introduce and support legislation that is not overly convoluted, but instead includes precisely what is needed on the key issues identified by the coalition formed by the unions, the PMG, and the major mailers. Only such legislation will give the American public another 239 years of reliable from the U.S. Postal Service and its dedicated employees. Stay tuned!

POLITICS 2016: General Election on November 8, 2016

The nation will elect a new President, many new Senators, and 435 members of the House of Representatives later this year, on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

On one issue everyone can agree: Presidential politics has been nothing like anything that anyone has previously seen. The bickering, the name calling, and the level of disrespect is something to behold, and that is not said as a compliment!

It all started in earnest in 2015 with 17 combatants running in the Republican primary for President, including former and current Governors Bush, Kasich, Gilmore, Perry, Jindal, Pataki, Christie and Walker, former and current Senators Cruz, Rubio, Graham, Paul, and Santorum, former surgeon Carson and business executives Fiorina and Trump.

The nominee from the Republican Party will be Donald Trump, one of those labeled most unlikely to succeed when this process started more than one year ago.

The Democrats originally had five candidates, including former First Lady, former Senator, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Senator Bernie Sanders. The Democratic nominee most likely will be Hillary Clinton come November.

The Senate cycle has 34 seats up for reelection in November 2016, 10 Democratic held seats and 24 Republican held seats up. The current makeup of the Senate favors the Republicans by a vote of 54 to 46, which includes 2 inde-



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pendents that caucus with the Democrats. With the Republicans having to defend more than two-thirds of the open seats, gains by the Democrats are expected.

All 435 members of the House of Representatives are also up for reelection, with the current makeup of the House standing at 247 Republicans and 188 Democrats.

States that have gubernatorial races in 2016 are Delaware, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and US territories in American Samoa and Puerto Rico.

Many State legislatures also have elections in 2016, with 86 out of 99 state legislatures subject to reelection in November.

What can you do to be a meaningful part of the process? First, you must vote! If you are not already registered to vote, please contact your Secretary of State's office to find out the proper timeframe and method to register.

Second, join the NPMHU PAC, which supports members of Congress regardless whether they are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents. The key is how they vote, not the party affiliation. They need to support our issues to get our support.

Also, sign up to become a NPMHU E-Activist. It's easy to become involved and more importantly it's your duty to protect your job and your livelihood by supporting candidates and issues that support you!

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