

MICHIGAN LETTER CARRIER

Voice of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers

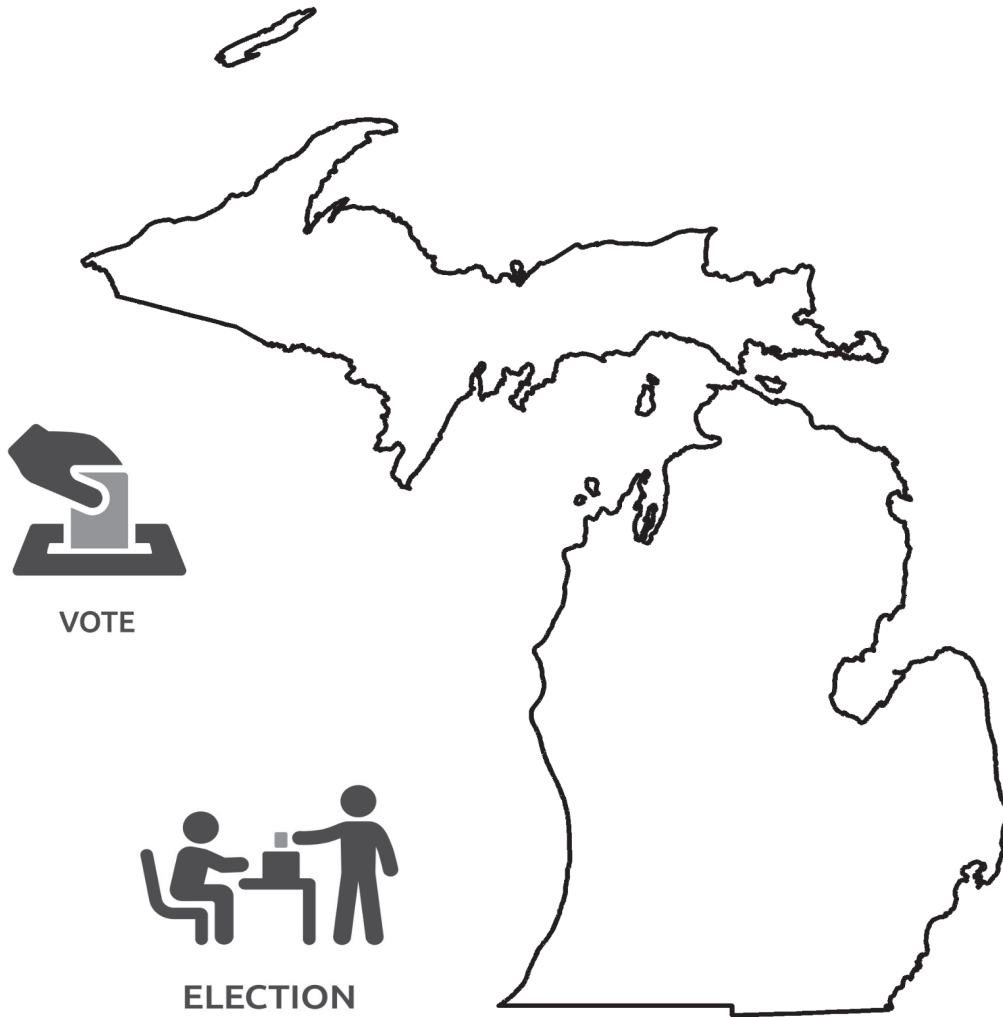
Volume 35

Issue 2

September 2026



The 2026 Election is NOW!



**See inside for reports from
your Congressional District:**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RON ZALEWSKI

The words we all hate to hear:

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION OF OUR LIVES!

It's always hype. Someone is selling you something - or more accurately - someone. That someone is the candidate they want you to elect. It's a cheap way to make you feel that going to the polls is important. Sadly, there's a bit of truth to the statement regardless of the hype. The next election is the only election we can do anything about. All the votes have been cast and counted in the last one, and the 2028 election is so far away that we don't even know the candidates yet. The one facing us right now is it. We must seize the day and do what we can now.

In this newsletter you'll find input regarding your US House District. The Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison for your district was instrumental in developing the passages about your district. There will also be information regarding what pieces of legislation the incumbent has cosponsored in the current Congress, if the incumbent is running for re-election. Please use this information regarding your district to help with learning who the best candidate is for you, and please vote.

The timing for this issue was not accidental. If our mailer and the USPS cooperated, you should have this in your hand along with your absentee ballot. If you're not an absentee voter, your local election official will open early in person balloting about 9 days prior to the November 3rd election. Be sure to get out and be heard – be sure to vote!

Senator:

Abdul El-Sayed (D) vs Mike Rogers (R) – Race Rating: Toss Up Incumbent not running

Under the National Constitution, the State President is defined as the LCCL for the Senators in each state. In Michigan, that means I have had the honor to work with Senator Gary Peters, who is retiring this year. Letter Carriers have never had a bigger champion in Washington than Gary Peters. It is important that we elect a strong supporter of Letter Carriers to replace him.

There are two major party candidates, and the differences couldn't be greater. Mike Rogers (R) has a track record during his time in the US House for us to look at – he was no friend to the NALC. More recently, he has been on board with calling for the USPS role in elections to be diminished. Two of the 2020 election deniers that were pardoned for their role in the 2020 election are currently county chairs for Roger's 2026 campaign. He has supported the administration's efforts to hamstring the USPS in this year's election as well.

Abdul El-Sayed (D) is endorsed by the Michigan AFL-CIO. He supports our efforts to save the Postal Service and to be instrumental in elections with vote by mail. He has no track record as an elected official; however, I've had the opportunity to interview him at length on several occasions. His answers on postal issues all aligned with the needs of letter carriers.

I would encourage you to consider both candidates and vote for the one that most closely aligns with your views.

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VOTING



CONGRESS



BALLOT

Governor:

Benson (D) vs James (R) – Race Rating: Leans D Incumbent term limited

The MISALC generally doesn't get involved in local or state races. The Michigan AFL-CIO website has a list of all the labor endorsed candidates if you'd like to see what our friends in labor think about local elections: bluevoterguide.org/endorser-org/AFL-CIO_Michigan/MI/3799

We should take a moment to look at one issue on the local ballot, however. Vote by mail is an important source of revenue for the Postal Service. It is also a place where letter carriers can use the trust the public has for their letter carrier to have a mark on the election. In the governor's race, one candidate has been a champion of vote by mail and our partnership with local clerks in getting the vote in and counted. She has a track record as Michigan's Secretary of State. The other major candidate also has a track record. During his time in the US House, he's done nothing to further letter carrier issues and has consistently jumped on board with measures to limit the use of vote by mail. I understand that vote by mail is one of many issues affecting the choice of our new governor – but you should be aware that one of the candidates supports our position on the matter and the other doesn't.

Ron Zalewski

President

3 Ways to give to the LCPF

As a member of the NALC, there are several easy ways to give to the Letter Carrier Political Fund:

- 1) **Payroll Deduction:** Contribute automatically, using PostalEASE (either online or by phone) to set up an allotment deduction from your USPS paycheck.
- 2) **Direct bank withdrawal:** You can authorize the funds to withdraw a monthly electronic contribution directly from your personal checking account.
- 3) **Annuity deduction:** Retired Letter Carriers can elect to give monthly via an automatic deduction from your monthly annuity.

NALC.org or see your local union Leadership!

By making a contribution to the Letter Carrier Political Fund, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or of employment by the United States Postal Service, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Any guideline amounts are merely suggestions, and you may contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and the union will not favor or disadvantage you by reason of the amount of your contribution or your decision not to contribute. The Letter Carrier Political Fund will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the Letter Carrier Political Fund are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the Letter Carrier Political Fund from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive administration staff or their families. Any contribution received from such an individual will be refunded to that contributor. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, name of employer and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 1

CD-01 Jack Bergman (R-Inc) vs Callie Barr (D) – Race Rating: Solid R Incumbent cosponsored H.R. 1065 and H Res. 70

Hello to all the hard-working Letter Carriers out there! I would like to say it's been a privilege to be asked to help protect and promote the USPS. Thanks to John Dick and Ron Zalewski. My name is Barry Wiley and my responsibility is District 1.

Jack Bergman is my congressional representative, he is a friend to the USPS and has signed on to our top two legislative concerns, H.R. 1065 and H.Res 70, Protecting our Letter Carriers Act and Opposing Privatization. In that regard my job should be easy, unfortunately I have had a hard time reaching him personally. I have sent emails and called his local office but received no answer from his U. P. office, but I was able to leave a voicemail on his Traverse City phone number. I will be going to Traverse City next week and hope to meet someone and at least thank him for his support and hopefully set up a meeting to discuss the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, H.R. 1522.

In the meantime, I have had a little more success locally with my State Representative Cam Cavitt. I've met with him twice and discussed State bill 5483, the State of Michigan's version of Protect our Letter Carriers Act. Not only did he say he would vote yes if it came to a vote, but his aide also told me I could email Representative Sarah Lightner his support. She is the chair of the House Judiciary committee.

I have been trying to connect with the 3 other local State Representatives John Roth, Parker Fairbairn and Ken Bolton. I've sent emails to all 3, joined their Facebook pages, in hopes of catching them at a fundraiser and even dropped my card off at their Chamber of Commerce offices. I'm not trying to connect only in hopes of gaining more support for H.R. 5483, but Congressman Bergman is 79 years old. At some point in the future, one of these state reps may assume his spot. They all won their last elections up here handily; therefore, I would like to have a relationship established with them by then.

In closing there is also Betsy Coffia, state representative in Traverse City, who is a Democrat and turned a traditionally red state seat blue. I'm going to her office as well when I travel to Traverse City.

I don't think it's a coincidence that both the USPS and the USA celebrated 250 years. I don't think you can have one without the other and will always believe that. I live in a rural district now and the gas station/grocery store and local Post Office are across the street. Everyone in town meets at both places daily, they like going to the Post Office here. We are also the last mile for Amazon, and I aim to keep it that way.

Hopefully I can continue being a LCCL and will try to achieve even more success in the future. Anything I can do to protect and promote the USPS is an honor.

Barry Wiley

Branch 523

LCCL District 1

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Michigan's First Congressional District: Building Engagement in the U.P.

As one of two MISALC Letter Carrier Congressional Liaisons for Michigan's First Congressional District, my focus in the Upper Peninsula has been on establishing a relationship with Congressman Jack Bergman's office and finding new ways to engage our communities in the legislative process. My fellow LCCL, Barry Wiley, is based in the Lower Peninsula, allowing us to cover a district that spans the entire Upper Peninsula and much of northern Lower Michigan.

As we head toward November, incumbent Congressman Jack Bergman faces Democratic challenger Callie Barr. For letter carriers evaluating the race, Bergman has an established record of involvement in postal issues. He is a cosponsor of H.Res 70, opposing the privatization of the Postal Service, and H.R. 1065, the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act. He also serves as a co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Postal Service Caucus and has been involved in efforts addressing postal operations and service in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford area.

Since taking on the LCCL role, I've been working to establish direct communication with Congressman Bergman's office. I've called, emailed, mailed correspondence, and even made a trip to his Gwinn office in hopes of introducing myself and beginning that working relationship. I haven't been successful yet -but I'm certainly not done trying.

One of my next opportunities may help bring a few more voices into the conversation. I've been invited to speak to Bay College's nonpartisan Civics Corps. Bay College is our local community college in Escanaba, and I'm looking forward to speaking with students about my experience as an LCCL, civic responsibility, and the role organized labor and ordinary citizens can play in the legislative process.

I'm excited to show students that congressional advocacy isn't reserved for politicians or professional lobbyists. Working people can learn about legislation, contact their representatives, organize around issues that matter to them, and make their voices heard. I'll be encouraging students to explore legislation affecting letter carriers, the Postal Service, and their own communities - and to contact their elected officials when an issue matters to them. If I haven't managed to get Congressman Bergman's attention yet, perhaps a few more engaged constituents will help!

Regardless of party or candidate, I hope members approach this election season the same way: learn where candidates stand on the issues, ask questions, contact your elected officials, and vote.

Our political strength comes from informed members who understand what's at stake and are willing to participate.

Leah Parrott

Branch 438

LCCL District 1

DISTRICT 2

John Moolenaar (R-Inc) vs Ben Ambrose (D): Race Rating – Solid R Incumbent has cosponsored none of NALC's legislation

In Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, the candidates are Republican Rep. John Moolenaar and Democratic challenger Ben Ambrose.

To date, Rep. Moolenaar has not cosponsored or publicly supported any of the bills on the National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) top legislative priority list. I have been unable to secure a meeting with his office, although I did receive a written response to a letter I sent.

Rep. Moolenaar has emphasized priorities that include supporting senior citizens. This focus could reasonably align with support for H.R. 1522, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, which would allow a significant number of letter carriers to purchase retirement credit for time served in non-career positions, improving their ability to retire with full benefits.

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DISTRICT 2 continued...

It could also encourage support for the Equal COLA Act (H.R. 491 / S. 624), which would provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants the same full cost-of-living adjustments currently received by Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees, helping them keep pace with inflation. I remain hopeful to meet with Rep. Moolenaar or a member of his staff.

Both candidates have expressed support for veterans. One of Mr. Ambrose's stated priorities is public safety, which could lead him to support the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065 / S. 463). Mr. Ambrose has also indicated plans to increase funding and training for law enforcement while promoting greater transparency. In addition, he supports improved access to medical care. This position could translate into support for H.R. 3170, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act, which would allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to provide treatment under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act—particularly valuable in rural areas where physicians may be scarce.

Mr. Ambrose has not publicly stated a position on the Postal Service or the NALC. He has, however, received endorsements from Teamsters Local 406 and UFCW Local 951. The NALC has not endorsed either candidate.

Given the predominantly rural character of the 2nd District, my primary goal is to meet with the eventual winner and urge support for H. Res. 70 and S. Res. 147, the bipartisan resolutions opposing privatization of the United States Postal Service.

In many rural communities, limited internet and cellular service mean that mail remains the most reliable form of communication.

Caresse O'Hearon

Branch 13

LCCL District 2

DISTRICT 3

Hillary Scholten (D-Inc) vs Terri DeBoer (R): Race Rating: Solid D
Incumbent Cosponsored: H.Res. 70 – H.R. 1065 – H.R. 1522 – H.R. 3011 – H.R. 2550

Hello, my name is Olivia Hines. I'm a city carrier in the Muskegon area. I've been involved with my union for three years now and this is my first year as a Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison (LCCL), representing Michigan's 3rd Congressional district.

We are getting close to one of our busy seasons; political. The never-ending flyers and mailers from so many candidates and the multiple proposals that have never even crossed your mind is relentless. But with all these names in the hat, do you really do the research to know if the candidate is right for you and what you stand for? Do you vote straight ticket, or do you not vote at all? You should.

It is important that we march to the polls this November and let our voices be heard. As a carrier, there are many acts that would benefit us and our retirees, but some members of Congress have not or will not co-sign these bills. As a LCCL, I have had the pleasure of speaking to the candidates on gaining their support and to listen to where they stand with these issues.

I encourage you to do the same. Research the candidates. See if they've voted on important bills that would be beneficial to you and where they stand. And most importantly, VOTE! Many have fought and died for this right of expression. So, mail in your ballots or go to the polls. Don't lose your voice by staying silent.

Olivia Hines

Branch 13

LCCL District 3

DISTRICT 4

Bill Huizenga (R-Inc) vs Sean McCann (D): Race Rating - Lean R
Incumbent cosponsored H.R. 1065 – H.R. 3170

Hello From District 4,

I have had the pleasure of being the point person for Congressman Huizenga. I have met with his aide several times over the course of the year. We talked about the current issues regarding the Kalamazoo S and DC. He was a sponsor of H.R. 3170, Improving Access to Worker's Compensation Act right before I met with his aide. Which I thanked them for getting onto such an important bill early on.

I stressed to his office that protecting Letter Carriers needed more than words from a mouth. We needed words to paper. We needed him to stand up for those that go out into our communities and serve the American public every single day. I pointed to the most recent violent crimes we face. The needless taking of carrier's lives. I told him we needed champions in Washington. It eventually worked. He signed on to H.R. 1065, Protect Our Letter Carriers Act.

I found that emailing my representative did not work. I had to call his office and talk to his aide for Postal Affairs. The gentleman was great. I also talked to another aide whose name eludes me. In my experience, I had to call his office to set up an appointment. Being that it is campaign season it has been a lot more challenging. But I will persist.

To the continued fight to pass bills that keep protecting carriers and their families,

Shane Gritzmaker

Branch 246

LCCL District 4

DISTRICT 5

Tim Walberg (R-Inc) vs Christian Vukasovich (D): Race Rating - Solid R
Incumbent was original sponsor of H.R. 3170

Hello all,

Josh Davis here in District 5.

As stated in the email sent earlier, Congressman Walberg will more than likely hold his seat after the election. In my entire life here in Jackson, I have never seen him seriously challenged.

I have not given up the fight for our issues, though. In a couple of emails, I have pointed out several key points. The employment of Veterans as Congressman is on the Veterans committee. The fact his District is baby with rural constituents, and they would be hurt most by privatization.

And I also thanked him for introducing a bill that would make OWCP much easier for our fellow brothers and sisters. All to no avail so far.

I will reach out again after the election and keep trying to get in the door. Keep up the good work and fight!

Josh Davis

Branch 232

LCCL District 5

DISTRICT 6

Debbie Dingell (D-Inc) vs Heather Smiley (R): Race Rating - Solid D Incumbent cosponsored H.Res. 70 – H.R. 1065 – H.R. 2550 – H.R. 8666

As Michiganders, we have seen many politicians come and go. Some leave behind little more than a name, while others build a record of public service that becomes part of the communities they represent.

Representative Debbie Dingell of Michigan's 6th Congressional District has built such a record, and for letter carriers and the United States Postal Service, her support has been particularly meaningful.

The Postal Service is more than a government agency. It is one of the few institutions that reaches nearly every community and household in America. Letter carriers see firsthand how important that service is. We deliver medications, Social Security checks, ballots, packages, correspondence, and sometimes simply the connection between people separated by hundreds or thousands of miles.

Representative Dingell has recognized the importance of protecting that institution and the people who make it work.

One of the most significant accomplishments during her time in Congress was her support for H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. Representative Dingell voted for this historic legislation, which eliminated the burdensome mandate requiring USPS to pre-fund future retiree health benefits decades in advance. It also strengthened the commitment to six-day mail delivery and provided greater transparency and accountability for postal service performance.

Equally important is Representative Dingell's support for H.R. 70, which calls for Congress to take appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not privatized.

For Letter Carriers, that is more than a political resolution. USPS exists to provide universal service to the American people, not simply to serve those communities where delivering the mail is most profitable. Whether someone lives in a large city, a small Michigan town, or a rural community miles away, that person deserves dependable and affordable postal service. Protecting the independence of USPS protects that promise.

But protecting the Postal Service also means protecting the people who make that service possible. Representative Dingell's support for the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act, H.R. 1065, recognizes the growing danger faced by letter carriers who have been robbed, assaulted, threatened, and even killed while doing their jobs. The legislation seeks stronger postal security and greater federal attention to crimes committed against postal employees. Every letter carrier deserves to finish a route and return home safely to his or her family.

Her advocacy also continues when problems arise within USPS itself. Representative Dingell has demanded answers regarding mail delays, staffing and route coverage, as well as serious workplace safety and labor concerns at the Detroit Network Distribution Center in Allen Park. But the relationship between the Dingell family and letter carriers did not begin with Debbie Dingell.

Years before she entered Congress, her late husband, Congressman John Dingell, had his own relationship with Michigan letter carriers. In 2010, representatives from our own NALC Branch 2184 met with Congressman Dingell at his Dearborn office to discuss H.R. 5746, legislation addressing the CSRS pension overpayment affecting the Postal Service. He listened to the concerns brought to him by our letter carriers and agreed to cosponsor the legislation.

Today, Debbie Dingell continues that relationship with postal employees and the communities we serve. The Postal Service will continue to face difficult challenges involving finances, staffing, service standards, modernization, safety and privatization. Letter carriers will need elected representatives willing to stand beside us during those battles.

For Michigan's letter carriers—and especially those of us in Branch 2184—we hope the Dingell legacy will continue to mean exactly that: standing up for an independent Postal Service, standing up for the communities it serves, and most importantly, standing up for the men and women who deliver America's mail.

Jerry Cerpa

Branch 2184

LCCL District 6

DISTRICT 7

Tom Barrett (R-Inc) vs William Lawrence (D) – Race Rating: Toss Up Incumbent did not cosponsor any NALC legislation

Michigan's 7th district is currently represented by a first term member, Tom Barrett. Rep Barrett's staff has had two meetings with our LCCLs and State President. Months after ghosting us following the first meeting, they finally agreed to a second. That meeting went somewhat better – at least the staff had the decency to call us several weeks later to tell us they wouldn't support any of our legislative initiatives.

This was particularly disappointing when the two biggest things we spoke about were the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act and the Retirement Fairness Act. So, Rep Barrett made it clear that he was against supporting Letter Carrier safety and Letter Carriers being able to buy back non-career time.

William Lawrence is running against Rep Barrett. Mr. Lawrence had an interview with the State Association the Monday following the primary. In that interview he gave all the right answers. Friendly to labor. Friendly to Letter Carrier issues.

It is not the proof that a voting or cosponsor record would have been, but that question mark reflects against the clear negative of Mr. Barrett. William Lawrence has the endorsement of the Michigan AFL-CIO.

CD-07 is rated as a toss-up district. This is a place that our votes can be our voice. Letter Carriers voting for letter carrier issues should make a difference.

There are also two minor party candidates in CD-07.

Assembled by MISALC Executive Board

DISTRICT 8

Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Inc) vs Thomas Smith (R): Race Rating – Likely D Incumbent cosponsored H.Res. 70 – H.R. 1065 – H.R. 2550

As a newly trained LCCL in District 8, I have no insight into our current representative, Kristen McDonald Rivet's office, and dealing with her office staff. Since I cannot share insight into dealing with her staff and office let's talk about the upcoming election. District 8 covers the Saginaw basin area including the cities of Saginaw, Flint, Midland and Bay City. This area is considered a swing district for this election, being historically a slight republican leaning area. It is expected that this race will be one of the most important in the state with both sides putting significant resources into winning the seat.

The way in which her Republican opponent won the primary might also factor into this upcoming race. Thomas Smith won the Republican primary for District 8 after suspending his campaign in July and publicly backing another candidate. Still on the ballot, he ended up winning the republican nomination anyway, which could suggest he has a large following, or indecisiveness among the Republicans of the district. How this will play out in the upcoming election we will see. Either way, he has committed to running and trying to beat out his opponent.

What do we know about the two candidates? Kristen McDonald Rivet has backed two of our current priority bills, (H.Res 70, anti-privatization and H.R. 1065, Protect Our Letter Carriers Act) and is also backing H.R. 2550, the Protect America's Workforce Act. This bill stops a 2025 Executive Order on exclusions from federal labor-management relations programs. Kristen McDonald Rivet has a strong pro-union record, backing collective bargaining and pro-worker economic measures.

Thomas Smith has not previously held any office, so we can't look back on past voting records to see where he stands on issues, but we can look at the issues he is running his campaign on. Three of Thomas' children are veterans, and one of the platforms he is running on is Veterans' Affairs, another is the rising costs for working families. Both are positives for the NALC. Thomas Smith also believes that Washington's spending is out of control and wants to hold government accountable and stop wasteful spending. As a LCCL this might make it difficult to sell a bill like our "Protect Our Letter Carriers Act" that would require a substantial amount of money to enact.

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As the new LCCL for Region 8 my job is not to tell anyone how to vote. My job is to establish a relationship with whomever is currently in office and try to push the issues the NALC has selected as priority. Looking at these two candidates, I believe Kristen McDonald Rivet retaining her seat is the best outcome for the NALC. McDonald Rivet has already signed two of our bills and has maintained a pro-union stance throughout her political career. Thomas Smith is an unknown and if he were elected would put us at square one. Either way, I look forward to starting a relationship with whichever candidate wins and doing my best to get my district's representative committed to the NALC.

Elizabeth Bowman

Branch 187

LCCL District 8

DISTRICT 9

Lisa McClain (R-Inc) vs Ray Pooley (D): Race Rating - Solid R Incumbent did not co-sponsor any NALC legislation

This spring, I was named the Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison (LCCL) for Michigan's 9th Congressional District, represented by Rep. Lisa McClain (R). McClain was first elected and took office in January 2021. Following redistricting, she began representing the current 9th Congressional District in January 2023. As a long-time resident of Chesterfield Township, McClain continued to be my representative even after the district lines were redrawn, so she has represented me throughout her time in Congress.

Since taking on this role, I have attempted to schedule a meeting with Rep. McClain or her staff to discuss issues important to letter carriers. Unfortunately, I have not yet been successful. District 9 has historically been difficult for my predecessors, who were equally unsuccessful in securing meetings.

Letter carriers currently have several legislative priorities before Congress that need cosponsors and support. As of the submission of this article, **Rep. McClain has not signed on as a cosponsor of a single one of these bills.**

H.Res. 70 — Protecting USPS From Privatization calls on Congress to ensure that USPS remains an independent establishment of the federal government and is not privatized. Michigan Sen. Gary Peters introduced the companion resolution in the Senate. Maintaining a public Postal Service protects universal service for every American, regardless of where they live.

H.R. 1065 — Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (POLCA) addresses robberies and assaults against letter carriers that are continuing across the country. POLCA would strengthen protections for carriers, improve the security of postal equipment, and prioritize the prosecution of crimes committed against letter carriers. Every carrier deserves to come home the same way they left.

H.R. 1522 — Federal Retirement Fairness Act would allow eligible employees to "buy back" qualifying post-1988 non-career federal service so that time can count toward retirement.

H.R. 491 — Equal COLA Act would eliminate the disparity between cost-of-living adjustments received by FERS and CSRS retirees. Our FERS retirees face the same rising costs as everyone else and deserve the same protection against inflation.

H.R. 3170 — Workers' Compensation would give injured federal employees greater access to medical treatment by permitting nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide certain services through the federal workers' compensation program. An injured carrier should be able to concentrate on recovery rather than searching for an authorized medical provider.

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H.R. 3011 — USPS Shipping Equity Act would address a competitive disadvantage faced by USPS. While private competitors can ship alcoholic beverages, current law generally prevents the Postal Service from doing so. This legislation would permit USPS to compete for much needed additional business, if it were allowed by law. This would provide another potential source of postal revenue.

Although these measures cover different subjects, all of them have consequences for letter carriers, retirees, or the long-term future of the Postal Service.

Nicole Wheatley

Branch 4374

LCCL District 9

DISTRICT 10

Christina Hines (D) vs Michael Bouchard, Jr (R): Race Rating – Toss Up Incumbent not running

I am the LCCL for MI-10 District and I would like to inform you about the situation that I am dealing with in my congressional district. The current representative, John James, is not running for re-election. He instead is running for Governor of Michigan. He has not done much to help the Letter Carriers of his District. I have visited his office and explained that USPS is the largest employer of veterans in the nation. He campaigned that he was a veteran and would do anything to help veterans. I even gave him a list of NALC veterans in his District. As of today, John James has not cosponsored any of the NALC priority legislation.

We have two candidates running for MI-10 District representative this year. The Republican, Michael Bouchard, is the son of the Oakland County Sheriff with the same name. He goes by the moniker “Captain Mike” to differentiate himself from his well-known father. He has spent 10 years in the military and now wants to serve as a member of Congress. He has never served in an elected public office at any level of government. His only union endorsement listed on his website is the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

The Democratic candidate, Christina Hines, is a special victim’s prosecutor for Macomb County. She grew up and has lived in Warren her whole life. Her husband is a veteran and they have three children. She has devoted much of her career to supporting victims of sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking. Her website includes the endorsement from The Sheriff of Macomb County, Anthony Wickersham, as well as four local union chapters.

I believe that the MI-10 Congressional District race is the most important House election in Michigan this year. This is a “purple” District, where not one political party holds all the power. Please make an informed decision when you go to vote. We need a strong USPS. One that remains as an institution of trust, a trust that anything we mail will be safely and timely delivered. Which of these two candidates will ensure that we remain a viable, public service to the American people? That is for you to decide this election.

Michael Neveau

Branch 4374

LCCL District 10



DISTRICT 11

Jeremy Moss (D) vs Ethan Baker (R): Race Rating - Solid D
Incumbent not running

MICHIGAN HOUSE DISTRICT 11 2026 ELECTION SUMMARY

I have had the distinct pleasure to have served the MISALC as the MI-11 District Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison through the last several Congressional sessions. Since 2019, I have developed an exceptional relationship with Congresswoman Haley Stevens. In this 119th Congress, I have worked with her staff to get her co-sponsorship on H. Res. 70, HR 1065, HR 1522, and HR 491. She has always been a friend to Letter Carriers, and I will miss our established working relationship. She made my job easy.

The two most prominent candidates running for my M-11 House District representative in the 2026 national election are Democrat Jeremy Moss and Republican Ethan Baker. I really don't know a lot about either candidate, so I went to their election websites to learn a little about them. I will have to build a relationship with one of them in 2027. And I will have to vote for one of them in 2026. This is what I found.

The Republican candidate, Ethan Baker, is the current mayor of Troy, Michigan. He has also served on the Troy City Council since 2015. Not a lifelong Michigan resident, he and his wife moved to Michigan seventeen years ago to raise a family. He started in politics young. At age twenty he was an intern and then hired to work for the post-presidential office of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. He credits the Reagans as his mentors that shaped his political beliefs. He has no official endorsements listed on his website.

The Democratic candidate, Jeremy Moss is a lifelong resident of Oakland County and is currently President pro tem of the Michigan Senate. He also began his political career at a young age. He was elected to the Southfield City Council at 25 years old, the youngest ever to hold that seat. He credits former Southfield Mayor and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (a former postal clerk and APWU member) as one of his mentors. Jeremy is now forty years old. The official endorsements on his website include all the major union and labor organizations in the MI-11 House District.

The stance of the Michigan State Association of Letter Carriers is not to tell you who to vote for, but to educate our members about the candidates. Go to their websites and do the research. Go to reliable news sources and read about the candidates. And one golden rule: DO NOT GET YOUR INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS. Personally, I always look for the candidates that I believe will support our NALC and its goal to protect the public Post Office and its workers. GOTV. Get Out and Vote!

John "Cementhead" Dick

Branch 3126

LCCL District 11

DISTRICT 12

Rashida Tlaib (D-Inc) vs James Hooper (R): Race Rating - Solid D
Incumbent cosponsored H.Res. 70 – H.R. 1065 – H.R. 1522 – H.R. 491 – H.R. 2550

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the history and highlights of my time as a Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison (LCCL) for Michigan's 12th Congressional District. I was first appointed in 2005 by Dan Florkowski, then MISALC President (now President Emeritus), when then Congressional District Liaison (or CDL, as they were then known) Joe Golonka recommended me for the post as he was stepping down.

The core functions of a LCCL are to develop a personal connection with our members of Congress and to educate them and their staff on the NALC issues. It is also important for us to keep our members updated on the NALC legislative agenda priorities. It is vitally important for LCCLs to form these relationships with the members of Congress and their staff in district offices. Our relationship with our individual member of Congress will have a positive impact on the working lives of Letter Carriers across the United States.

...continued on page 13

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One pivotal experience I have had as a LCCL was to help organize, under the direction of then MISALC President Florkowski, a huge rally to help save 6-day delivery. The well-attended rally was held in front of the Southfield, Michigan post office on a cold and windy Sunday afternoon, March 24, 2013. Thousands of letter carriers, family members, and supporters from other labor unions (and even some of their dogs) attended. This also included Gary Peters, a great friend of letter carriers who is now retiring as our United States Senator. At the time Gary was a congressman who represented the 14th District where the rally was held. This was likely the largest local rally of its kind that we ever held.

I have been a LCCL for three different members of Congress during the years that I have served in this position. I have lived in three different congressional districts during that same period, but without ever moving! Every decade after the Census is completed, legislators draw new congressional districts. Thus, I have been in the 11th District represented by Thaddeus McCotter, then the 13th District represented by John Conyers, and now the 12th District represented by Rashida Tlaib.

By far, my working relationship with Rashida and her office has been the best of the three. I have worked well with her aide that oversees issues regarding letter carriers and the Postal Service. I generally start by emailing both Rashida and Joseph, my current contact in her office, regarding an issue or house resolution, and attach a copy of the related NALC Fact Sheet. I follow up with a text or a call to Joseph, who lets me know when Rashida signs on to support that specific letter carrier issue. It really has been just that simple.

I feel quite fortunate that we have such a willing partner in the House that supports issues that affect letter carriers. Some of our LCCLs in Michigan have a more difficult task with Congressional Representatives that are less supportive of NALC's issues. One additional important role that an LCCL can perform is to work for the NALC National office, helping worker-friendly candidates get elected. I have been released to work elections consistently since 2012, which is a pivotal date for me since I retired that year, and therefore not subject to Hatch Act restrictions.

Patricia Linna

Branch 2184

LCCL District 12

PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT (H.R.1065/S.463)

To deter crimes and assaults against letter carriers by securing keys and collection boxes, directing U.S. attorney offices to prioritize cases involving assaults against letter carriers, and strengthening sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes.

**Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) and
Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO)**

DISTRICT 13

Donavan McKinney (D) vs TP Nikoriuk (R): Race Rating – Solid D Incumbent lost in primary

Michigan's 13th District composes a majority of Wayne County and is unique in that the entire district is in just one county. There's only one other district that has that distinction in Michigan.

Our current Representative, Shri Thanedar, has been a solid supporter of Letter Carriers. He lost the primary so we will have a new representative in January. The two major candidates are Donovan McKinney (D) a current Michigan House member and Taras TP Nykoriak (R) whose resume includes a string of unsuccessful runs for Wayne County Sheriff. There are also two minor party candidates and two independents on the ballot, none of whom will garner significant support.

State Rep. McKinney has the endorsement of the Michigan AFL-CIO. I'm sure that Mr. McKinney will support Letter Carriers in the 120th Congress. I was unable to speak with Mr. Nykoriak directly. His website didn't specifically mention any issues tied to letter carriers, labor, or federal employees.

District 13 is rated as a Safe Dem seat in this election. Likely, Donovan McKinney will win the seat.

Ron Zalewski

Branch 4374

LCCL District 13

Our Regional LPO

Matt Tanner, Legislative and Political Organizer, Regions 3, 4 (AR & OK), 6 & 8

Tanner, a member of Lansing, MI Branch 122, has served his branch as an alternate steward, steward, food drive coordinator, secretary, vice president and president. He graduated from the Leadership Academy in 2014

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NALC PRIORITY LEGISLATION

ANTI-PRIVATIZATION RESOLUTION (H.RES. 70/S.RES 147)

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.

Introduced by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Nick LaLota (R-NY), and Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

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Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO)

FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT (H.R.1522)

Would allow certain federal employees to make catch-up retirement contributions for time spent as non-career employees after Dec. 31, 1988, making such time creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System. This includes letter carriers who served as casuals, transitional employees and city carrier assistants.

Introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACT (H.R.3170)

Would expand the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to allow them to treat injured federal workers under the federal workers' compensation program.

Introduced by Reps. Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Joe Courtney (D-CT)

USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT (H.R.3011)

To amend Title 18, United States Code, and Title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

Introduced by Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA)

NALC Fact
Sheets



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Michigan State Association
Of Letter Carriers, NALC
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