



# *eNAPUS Legislative & Political Bulletin*

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## *No Dog Days This Summer!*

This summer, the sultry Washington weather will be punctuated by a handful of congressional hearings that will be of interest to NAPUS Postmasters. The House hearings will be narrowly focused, while the Senate hearings will cover a broad range of postal matters. NAPUS has been invited to testify at a number of the hearings.

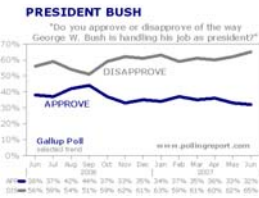


The House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia will conduct a hearing on the USPS decision to consider all new routes for contract delivery. Subcommittee Chairman Danny Davis (D-IL) scheduled the hearing for July 19. Chairman Davis invited employee and management associations to testify, as well as PMG Jack Potter and the USPS Inspector General David Williams. The tentative witness list includes freshman Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ) and Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO). Rep. Sires introduced House Resolution 282, a nonbinding resolution that urges the USPS to discontinue contract delivery services. The measure does not distinguish between currently serviced highway contract routes and the creation of new routes in established carrier territories. The absence of the distinction has caused some confusion. Nonetheless, the legislation carries the sponsorship of 222 members of the House of Representatives. Also, Chairman Davis plans a July 26 hearing on postal facility closings and consolidations. It would appear that the Committee will focus on the USPS decision-making process in facility actions. Furthermore, the Subcommittee will likely delve into what weight the USPS assigns community impact, when evaluating closing and consolidation plans, and to what degree, if any, local communities play in the procedure. Finally, on August 2, the Subcommittee intends to hold a hearing on the status of federal employee and retiree benefits, including health and retirement.

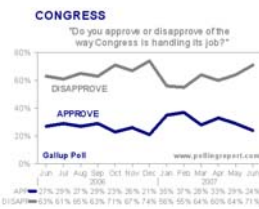
The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security has scheduled two hearings on the implementation of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435). Subcommittee Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE) plans the hearings for July 25 and August 2. Employee unions and management associations have been invited to testify on the first day. The PMG Potter, PRC Chairman Dan Blair and mailer representatives have been invited to testify on the second day. It is expected that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day witnesses will concentrate on implementation of service standards, as required under the new law, and on contracting-out delivery services. The Senate's legislative contribution to the issue of contracting out is S. 1457. The legislation, introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), would limit contract delivery to very rural communities. The measure is pending before the Subcommittee. Currently, one-third of the Senate has cosponsored S. 1457.

## NAPUS Starts to Look at 2008

June 30, 2007, represented a major landmark in assessing the political fortunes of Congressional incumbents. As required by law, on June 30, Members of Congress filed their 6-month fundraising totals with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). An anemic half-year of fundraising could encourage congressional contenders to test the waters for a potential challenge to the incumbent. The cost of running for office is high. For example, Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) spent \$17.6 million to defeat former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA). Ironically, Santorum outspent Casey by over \$10 million. In New Mexico, Rep. Heather Wilson (R) spent nearly \$5 million to withstand the challenge of Patricia Madrid (D), who spent \$3.4 million.



Presidential Approval



Congressional Approval

Although it is relatively early in the election cycle, it is not as early as you may think. The primary season begins in only 8 months and the general election takes place in 15 months. So, like others, NAPUS will be reviewing the fundraising prowess of incumbents and challengers alike, to assess either their capability to withstand a challenge or to wage one. We look at local fundraising ability, as well as Washington and national fundraising. Competent fundraising usually means professional campaign management, effective communication with the electorate and successful get-out-the-vote activities.

As part of our 2008 election fortune-telling, we are also looking at potential congressional retirements, particularly in those seats that are potentially competitive. For example, Sen. John Warner (R-VA) is considered a shoe-in for reelection. However, if he were to retire, his vacant seat would be highly competitive. We could anticipate a tough Republican primary or convention between Rep. Tom Davis versus former Gov. James Gilmore. In all likelihood, the Democratic standard-bearer would be former Gov. Mark Warner.

We are also paying attention to national trends and how those trends could impact senatorial and congressional races. For example, President Bush's disapproval numbers are hovering at 65%, and Congress scores worse at 71%. In a close race, national trends matter. The situation in Iraq is having a dominant influence in the polling numbers, but we constantly need to reassess voter opinion and the intensity of their feelings to provide a reasonable political prognosis.

## Gazette to Focus on NAPUS PAC

At the direction of NAPUS President Dale Goff and National Editor Hugh Hager, the upcoming August 2007 issue of the *Postmasters Gazette* will focus on the importance of NAPUS PAC and how PAC promotes Postmasters issues in the nation's capital. We are highlighting political activism as a means to protect and enhance Postmasters benefits and working conditions. Moreover, the issue is a tribute to the dedicated hardworking PAC Chapter Chairs who have been the backbone of NAPUS' political and legislative program. A number of PAC Chairs have contributed articles for publication, with insight on why PAC is important. The issue will also discuss the wide array of options Postmasters have to contribute of PAC.

Over the first 6 months of 2007, NAPUS postmasters have contributed a strong \$220,000 (4% over SPLY) to PAC and NAPUS PAC has contributed a healthy \$163,000 to help bolster the campaigns chests of NAPUS allies on Capitol Hill.

**National Association of  
Postmasters of the U.S.**

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