



# *eNAPUS Legislative & Political Bulletin*

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## Presidential Politics Essential and Distracting

There seems to be no presidential frontrunner in either the Democratic or the Republican Party. Sens. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Barack Obama (D-IL) split the first two contests, and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Gov. Michael Huckabee (R-AR), and former Gov. Mitt Romney (R-MA) have each won one of the first three Republican contests. Moreover, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R-NY) is waiting in the wings for the Florida primary to test his mettle. This will be an exciting dash to the nomination. It is noteworthy that contentious Presidential primary races divert legislative resources – financial and grassroots – away from short-term and focused legislative goals. Legislative activists tend to stream into campaigns, because electoral politics is more exciting than the mundane promotion of a legislative agenda. Moreover, the repercussions of an unacceptable outcome in the Presidential election are long-term and sweeping.

In addition, to nominating their Cabinets, Supreme and Federal Court justices, charting foreign policy and setting governmental priorities, Presidents nominate individuals to the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors and the Postal Regulatory Commission. These two agencies are pivotal to the success of the Postal Service. Reckless and ideologically-driven nominees can destroy (e.g., privatize) the USPS, while wise publicly-spirited candidates can ensure the agency's viability. Although the Senate has the right to confirm or reject nominees, it does not have the Constitutional authority to replace the Administration's choices with its own. So, indeed, the party nominees who emerge from the primaries and caucuses will make a difference for the future of Postmasters. Consequently, NAPUS members must continue to aggressively question the candidates of both parties when they campaign in your town or community of their vision about Postal Service and the benefits that it provides. As Postmasters in IA and NH have demonstrated, there will be ample opportunity to engage the candidates and their staff members in the dialogue. (Although NAPUS endorses congressional candidates, it does not choose sides in Presidential races.)

However, it is also important not to forget that, in 2008, NAPUS will be carrying a full legislative agenda to Capitol Hill and to all our elected representatives. Consequently, we must effectively balance our desire to elect a pro-Postmaster President with ensuring that the current Congress and Administration adopt our positions during the current legislative session. In this regard, preparations for the 2008 NAPUS Leadership Conference is in full swing. We anticipate that detailed legislative material will be available to NAPUS legislative activists approximately three weeks prior to the Conference. The publication timing is related to the release of the President's Fiscal year 2009 Budget, which is usually unveiled in early February.



2008 NH Primary  
Winners Have  
Addressed NAPUS at  
Past Leadership  
Conferences

## NAPUS Testifies Against Do Not Mail Registry



NH NAPUS President  
David Paige Testifies  
Against Do Not Mail  
Registry

On Thursday morning, New Hampshire Chapter President David Paige (Postmaster of Whitefield) testified before the legislature's House Committee on Commerce, in opposition to House Bill 1506. The bill, if enacted, would penalize companies that send mail to individuals recorded on a state-administered "do not mail" registry. Testifying on the first of two days of hearings were the three sponsors of legislation, a representative of the NH Rural Letter Carriers and David Paige. Originally, the Committee has scheduled only one hour for the hearing; however, the panel wanted to provide an opportunity for those who indicated the desire to testify to do so. The Committee has set aside January 24 for the second hearing.

Generally, David explained to the Commerce Committee that New Hampshire is a postal-reliant state, whose mail service would be adversely impacted by the loss of mail revenue resulting from House Bill 1506. The legislation would have a chilling effect on mailers and could undermine the ability of the Postal Service to maintain universal mail service. Moreover, Paige pointed out that the revenue loss would impact the 4,500 postal employees in the state, by exacerbating the understaffing at postal facilities. This in turn would lengthen lines at postal windows, reduce Post Office hours, and hinder timely mail delivery.

David Paige's testimony can be viewed in its entirety on the NAPUS Website, [http://www.napus.org/govrelations/testimony\\_pdfs/Paige.pdf](http://www.napus.org/govrelations/testimony_pdfs/Paige.pdf).

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## NAPUS PAC Posts Another Banner Year



The 2007 PAC totals are now in. National PAC Chair Ron Wood (Postmaster of Chetopa, KS) and Chapter PAC Chairs should be congratulated for their hard work in helping provide the resources to elect a pro-Postmaster Congress. At the upcoming NAPUS Leadership Conference, we will work with PAC Chairs to educate Postmasters about political activism and the tremendous impact that electoral support has on being able to deliver our message to elected leaders.

Last year, NAPUS Postmasters generously contributed more than \$344,000 to NAPUS PAC. These funds are being used to help solidify the electoral strength of Congressional incumbents, challengers, and candidates for vacant seats who support the legislative agenda of Postmasters. Small Postmaster contributions to PAC have made us successful. NAPUS PAC is especially appreciative of those Postmasters who have elected to withhold a small amount of their salary or annuity and have the funds deposited directly into NAPUS PAC.

In order to help generate interest and support in this year's NAPUS PAC campaign, President Dale Goff helped design the 2008 PAC pin design. (NAPUS issues a different PAC pin each year.) The pin reflects the fact that this is a Presidential election year; the Oval Office occupant on January 20, 2009, will have a major influence on postal policy and will set the tone for how Congress responds to legislative matters that impact the lives of active and retired Postmasters.

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

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