

What's Up in Washington: May 2014

By: Meredith Place

As always, Washington remains a bustling place as lawmakers ignore reality, debating irresponsible bills instead of working to fix the problems they've created. This month, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) spearheaded efforts to pass legislation that eliminates door-to-door residential and commercial mail deliver. (His actions are just more lousy attempts to distract from the fact that his postal bill from last year, H.R. 2748, is going absolutely nowhere.) Meanwhile, several Midwest states this month held primaries to decide their party's nominee.

On May 21, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved Issa's "Secure Delivery for America Act of 2014" (H.R. 4670) on a party-line vote. Issa failed to introduce and hold debate on his earlier so-called "compromise bill" at the beginning of the month, so his new strategy consists of taking individual provisions from H.R. 2748 and introducing them almost weekly until Democrats "compromise" by accepting the proposals in his latest bill that unfortunately mirror proposals made by the Obama administration. NALC continues to emphasize our objections to Issa's H.R. 2748 his subsequent bill. President Rolando has said: "Letter carriers, customers and the county deserve more. With the Postal Service now operationally profitable, any bill that diminishes service to the public and businesses will stop the postal turnaround in its tracks by driving mail and revenue out of the system." (To read more about the hearing, [click here](#).)

This month, voters in Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska and West Virginia went to the polls to select their parties' nominees for state and national races. In Indiana, Democratic candidate Joe Bock clinched his party's nomination in a four-way primary to represent Indiana's 2nd Congressional District. He'll face freshman Republican Jackie Walorski in November. In Kentucky, Tea Partier Matt Bevin tried to take out Mitch McConnell, the current Senate minority leader. Bevin put up quite the fight but was only able to garner 35 percent of the vote. Nebraska Republicans, meanwhile, voted to make Ben Sasse their nominee for U.S. Senate. The former Bush administration staffer cruised to victory with endorsements from Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (R), plus lots of outside help from well-known super-PACs. The West Virginia primary went as expected; Democrats nominated W. Va. Secretary of State Natalie Tennant for U.S. Senate, while Rep. Shelly Moore Capito (WV-2nd) won the Republican primary for Senate. To read more about Indiana's primary, [click here](#); Kentucky's results can be found [here](#); for Nebraska's results, [click here](#); and lastly, check out West Virginia's results [here](#).

As many are already well aware, Thursday, May 29 is my last day here at NALC. These past two years have been extremely rewarding. I am so lucky to have worked alongside union leaders throughout this country while learning new organizing and political skills from a talented team in DC. I have learned more than I ever expected to; I will forever be grateful for NALC for teaching me what it really means to be part of a collective and showing me why labor needs to be protected in our country. I wish you the very best!

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