

ISALC LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY KEITH BROWN

ELECTION DATES:

Primaries:
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

General Election:
Tuesday, November 3,
2026

HELLO EVERYBODY!

We are quickly approaching the mid-term elections. Are you ready? Do you know the people that you are voting for? Do you agree with the direction our country is heading, or do you favor changing our course of action? Or, maybe, you are one of many who believe voting is a waste of time. The answer to these questions will determine the direction our country will take. Do you want representatives that protect your collective bargaining rights? Are you voting for candidates that protect your health care? Is the idea of retiring in dignity something these candidates support? In this democratic republic that we live in, we enjoy the right to choose our representatives. By not participating, your voice is silent. However, voting is our first opportunity to “Fight Like Hell!” Make a plan to be heard! Time is running out!

This year’s mid-term elections will consist in part for a U.S. Senate seat and all 4 U.S. Congressional seats. These particular elections will help determine the power of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Both chambers of Congress have very slim margins of Republican majority. The rights we enjoy as union members will be determined in these chambers. Over the past year, many of our sister unions have endured countless attacks on their rights and privileges. Members of the American Federal Government Employees (AFGE), for example, have lost their right to have their dues automatically deducted from their paychecks. And, that is for the ones who did not have their collectively bargained contracts destroyed. Are you prepared to have the NALC dismantled? Are you willing to “Fight Like Hell” to protect your right to be a part of this great union? If your answer is yes, then it is time to plan to vote!

Planning to vote requires some time. You need time to research the candidates and their positions on the issues that are important to you. Try to go to some campaign events and ask questions. Get to know the candidates. They are people, just like you and me. You also need time to vote. I have included the dates of the elections to the left. However, if you plan to vote early, you need to know a couple of other dates. In Iowa, you may request an absentee ballot for the Primaries, March 24th through May 18th. The first day the absentee ballots will be mailed out is May 13th. You can always surrender these ballots and still vote at your local polling place. I think it’s a good idea to request an absentee ballot to help you research everything on the ballot to make a more informed decision. As for the general election, you may request an absentee ballot beginning August 25th. The last day to request a ballot is on October 19th, and the first day the absentee ballots will be mailed out is October 14th. Just remember, if you decide to vote from home, give the ballot a chance to get to your county auditor’s office the Monday before the election dates. Of course, if you are not registered to vote, you must get that accomplished! To do this, you may contact your county auditor’s office, fill out the registration online or register to vote at your DOT site. I did this when I updated my driver’s license.

It’s time to “Fight Like Hell!” And, it starts with this year’s mid-term elections. Get involved! Make a plan! And, VOTE, like your job depends on it!