

# NALC ENDORSES OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT IN 2012



**J**oining the AFL-CIO and many sister unions, the delegates at the NALC convention in Minneapolis voted on Thursday, July 26, to endorse President Barack Obama for a second term. The records and statements of Obama and his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, gave them a wealth of reasons.

The stark contrast between the two candidates was on display at the convention, where President Obama greeted the delegates in a videotaped message. "Together, you represent what's best about this country," Obama said. "Your work isn't easy, but day in and day out, you provide a service that keeps our country's economy on track.

"We're pushing back against the assault on unions," Obama said, "because the values you stand for—hard work, responsibility, looking out for one another—those aren't just union values, they're American values."

The delegates also watched a video titled "Mr. 1 Percent" that lampooned Romney's anti-worker, anti-middle class and often contradictory positions and statements. "Let Detroit go bankrupt," Romney said in the video. Romney was also seen opposing government intervention in the housing crisis to help homeowners keep their homes: "Don't try and stop the foreclosure process. Let it run its course and hit the bottom." The video exposed Romney's history as a corporate raider whose slash-and-

burn, job-destroying background would likely carry over to his performance in the White House if he were elected president.

Both videos can be viewed on the union's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/ThePostalRecord](http://youtube.com/user/ThePostalRecord).

## **Good heart vs. determined enemy**

During the discussion about the endorsement resolution, several delegates who supported Obama acknowledged that he has fallen short in his efforts to help the Postal Service and letter carriers.

The Executive Council said as much in its statement on the resolution. "The president, in his first term, has not performed as well as we had hoped, or as well as we deserved," said Executive Vice President Tim O'Malley, reading the statement to the delegates. "We have certainly not been shy in letting him know that. We have every intention of pressing him, hard, for a better second-term performance on postal issues, on letter carrier issues, that we can be proud of—that he can be proud of."

However, the Council said, the choice is still clear: Letter carriers will be much better off with Obama than with Romney.

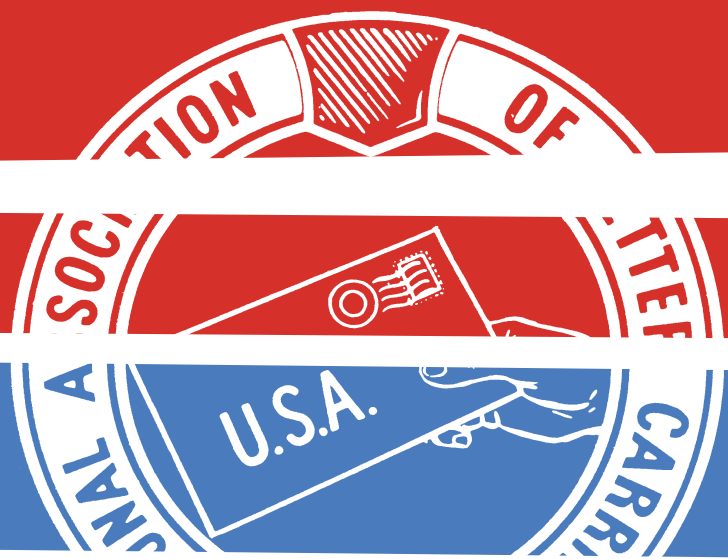
"There is a huge difference between a good friend, with a good heart, who

has fallen short, and a determined enemy who is out to destroy you. What you do is work hard to support your friend and seek to improve his performance, and work even harder to defeat your enemy."

After further debate, the delegates approved the endorsement resolution by voice vote.

*(For more thoughts on the endorsement, please see President Fredric Rolando's Message on page 1.)*

Two weeks after the convention, Romney doubled down on deconstruction by selecting Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. As an article on Ryan in last month's *Postal Record* explained, Ryan is the author of the House Republicans' Tea Party-inspired budget that would make massive cuts in federal programs. Ryan wants to cut the federal workforce by 10 percent, reduce pay and benefits for the federal and postal workers he keeps, gut programs like Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' programs, education and unemployment assistance, and privatize Social Security. His cuts in Medicaid and his proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act would cause 50 million working Americans to lose health insurance coverage. Ryan would use the savings from these cuts



to award the wealthy with even more tax breaks.

The choice of Ryan made it all the more clear that a Romney presidency would be disastrous for letter carriers and their families. With Obama, letter carriers and the Postal Service have a chance to succeed.

## **OBAMA vs. ROMNEY** **on labor, jobs and federal workers**

When it comes to jobs, Obama has created a record that puts him miles ahead of Romney. The president signed an economic stimulus bill shortly after he took office that the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says created or saved up to 3 million jobs and kept the economy from collapsing. He authorized a rescue of General Motors and Chrysler, which also preserved the Ford Motor Co. and saved more than a million jobs in auto and auto-related service and manufacturing industries. All three auto companies are now profitable again and employ tens of thousands of American workers and many thousands more in supporting sectors.

Romney has said the stimulus didn't work and that "Detroit" and the industrial Midwest should have been left to go bankrupt.

With all the challenges Obama tackled when he took office in January of 2009, it's easy to forget that he also reversed many anti-labor policies of the Bush administration, including appointing labor-friendly members to the National Labor Relations Board and National Mediation Board and supporting legislation to make the organizing process easier.

Romney, on the other hand, opposes labor every chance he gets.

Romney embraced efforts by right-wing ideologues like Wisconsin Gov.

Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich to blame public employees for government deficits and to use this as an excuse to attack collective-bargaining rights. Romney supports a national "right-to-work" (for less) law and wants to make organizing even more difficult. He worked to help efforts to oppose a voter initiative in Ohio that repealed Kasich's law that took away collective bargaining for state workers, even showing up at a Republican phone bank in Ohio to cheer the effort to keep the law. (It was overturned.) He blames teachers' unions for America's education woes and says he would "push back" against them as president. At the 2008 Republican National Convention, Romney called for his party to "stand up to the tyrannosaurus appetite of government unions."

Romney also favors Ryan's plan to cut the federal workforce along with programs to help the unemployed get training and temporary assistance. Though Romney hasn't gone on record about his views on the Postal Service, one of his key economic advisers recently called for privatizing the Postal Service after auctioning off many of its facilities. It's not hard to imagine Romney, the former corporate takeover artist, taking that advice as president.

## **OBAMA vs. ROMNEY** **on the middle class**

Obama has signed legislation designed to rein in Wall Street's excesses and help prevent another financial crisis. Just days after taking office, he signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, a law that removed a barrier to sex discrimination lawsuits over equal pay for women.

On the other hand, Romney, whose work for Bain Capital frequently involved buying companies and

dismantling them, shedding jobs in the process, is the ultimate Wall Street insider whose life experiences and enormous wealth have left him completely out of touch with the average worker and his or her struggles.

Romney recently answered a question from a college student about how to deal with skyrocketing tuition costs by saying, "My best advice is find a great institution of higher learning. Find one that has the right price—shop around," Romney said. "Hopefully you'll find that, and don't take on too much debt and don't expect the government to forgive the debt that you take on."

"I'm not concerned about the very poor," Romney recently said. "We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it." His idea of fixing the safety net for the unemployed seeking new jobs and for retirees, though, is to impose massive spending cuts in programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, disabled veterans' assistance, child nutrition programs and unemployment assistance. The very rich, on the other hand, would get a tax cut from Romney, on top of the cuts for millionaires enacted under President George W. Bush.

This summer, Obama proposed leaving the Bush tax cuts in place for people making less than \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for couples) and restoring the fair share of the tax burden to the super-rich—to the rates that existed during the Clinton jobs boom. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives rejected his plan and voted to extend all the tax cuts, including the tax breaks for the wealthy that turned budget surpluses into deficits in the Bush years.

Romney also wants to repeal Obama's signature health care legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which will provide improved access to health care

# NALC ENDORSES OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT IN 2012

insurance for 30 million uninsured Americans, expand health care for working families and their children to the age of 26, and require coverage of people with pre-existing conditions. Such a repeal would also eliminate the Obama administration's plan to save Medicare by restraining its growth through provider reforms—saving \$700 billion through the elimination of wasteful procedures that don't improve health outcomes and freeing up resources to extend coverage to all Americans.

"What the court did not do on its last day in session I will do on my first day if

elected president of the United States," Romney said the day that the Supreme Court upheld the health care law. "I will act to repeal Obamacare."

Romney has spent months trying, but failing, to explain how the Affordable Care Act is significantly different from the health care law he enacted as Massachusetts governor.

"We're privileged to have one of the most diverse group of members of any union or other organization in the nation," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "We have different races and religions and backgrounds and ideas, and

they choose whom to vote for based on different reasons. NALC is the union of letter carriers, and our responsibility is to represent people as letter carriers. If you vote based on your job and your pay and your retirement, this endorsement of Obama is for you."

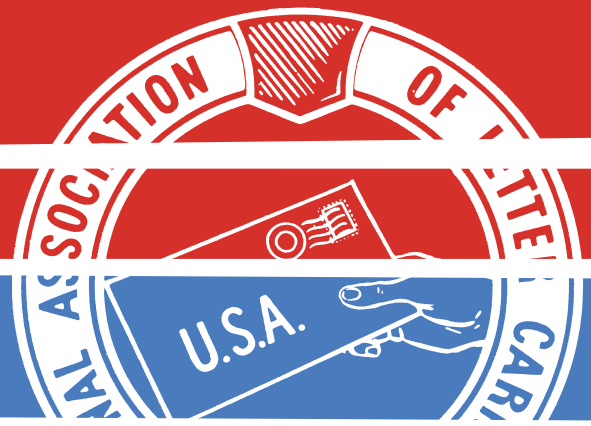
## OBAMA vs. ROMNEY radically different visions

When she spoke to the NALC convention on July 23, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), chairwoman of the Democratic National

## NALC-ENDORSED CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

AK-AL—Don Young	R	CA-47—Alan Lowenthal	D	IL-10—Brad Schneider	D
AL-7—Terri Sewell	D	CA-51—Juan Vargas	D	IL-11—Bill Foster	D
AR-1—Scott Ellington	D	CA-52—Scott Peters	D	IL-12—Bill Enyart	D
AR-4—Gene Jeffress	D	CA-53—Susan Davis	D	IL-13—David Gill	D
AZ-SEN—Richard Carmona	D	CO-1—Diana DeGette	D	IL-15—John Shimkus	R
AZ-1—Ann Kirkpatrick	D	CO-2—Jared Polis	D	IL-17—Cheri Bustos	D
AZ-2—Ron Barber	D	CO-3—Sal Pace	D	IL-18—Aaron Schock	R
AZ-3—Raúl Grijalva	D	CO-4—Brandon Shafer	D	IN-SEN—Joe Donnelly	D
AZ-7—Ed Pastor	D	CO-6—Joe Miklosi	D	IN-1—Pete Visclosky	D
CA-2—Jared Huffman	D	CO-7—Ed Perlmutter	D	IN-2—Brendan Mullen	D
CA-3—John Garamendi	D	CT-SEN—Chris Murphy	D	IN-5—Scott Reske	D
CA-5—Mike Thompson	D	CT-1—John Larson	D	IN-7—André Carson	D
CA-6—Doris Matsui	D	CT-2—Joe Courtney	D	IN-8—Dave Crooks	D
CA-7—Ami Bera	D	CT-3—Rosa DeLauro	D	KS-2—Lynn Jenkins	R
CA-8—Paul Cook	R	CT-4—Jim Himes	D	KY-3—John Yarmuth	D
CA-9—Jerry McNerney	D	DE-AL—John Carney	D	KY-6—Ben Chandler	D
CA-10—Jose Hernandez	D	FL-SEN—Bill Nelson	D	LA-2—Cedric Richmond	D
CA-11—George Miller	D	FL-5—Corrine Brown	D	MA-SEN—Elizabeth Warren	D
CA-12—Nancy Pelosi	D	FL-6—Heather Beaven	D	MA-1—Richard Neal	D
CA-13—Barbara Lee	D	FL-9—Alan Grayson	D	MA-2—Jim McGovern	D
CA-14—Jackie Speier	D	FL-10—Val Demings	D	MA-3—Niki Tsongas	D
CA-15—Pete Stark	D	FL-14—Kathy Castor	D	MA-4—Joe Kennedy III	D
CA-16—Jim Costa	D	FL-16—Keith Fitzgerald	D	MA-5—Ed Markey	D
CA-17—Mike Honda	D	FL-18—Patrick Murphy	D	MA-6—John Tierney	D
CA-18—Anna Eshoo	D	FL-20—Alcee Hastings	D	MA-7—Michael Capuano	D
CA-19—Zoe Lofgren	D	FL-21—Ted Deutch	D	MA-8—Stephen Lynch	D
CA-20—Sam Farr	D	FL-23—Debbie Wasserman-Schultz	D	MA-9—Bill Keating	D
CA-21—John Hernandez	D	FL-24—Frederica Wilson	D	MD-SEN—Ben Cardin	D
CA-24—Lois Capps	D	FL-26—Joe Garcia	D	MD-2—Dutch Ruppersberger	D
CA-26—Julia Brownley	D	GA-2—Sanford Bishop	D	MD-3—John Sarbanes	D
CA-27—Judy Chu	D	GA-4—Hank Johnson	D	MD-4—Donna Edwards	D
CA-28—Adam Schiff	D	GA-5—John Lewis	D	MD-5—Steny Hoyer	D
CA-29—Tony Cardenas	D	GA-12—John Barrow	D	MD-6—John Delaney	D
CA-30—Brad Sherman	D	GA-13—David Scott	D	MD-7—Elijah Cummings	D
CA-30—Howard Berman	D	HI-SEN—Mazie Hirono	D	MD-8—Chris Van Hollen	D
CA-32—Grace Napolitano	D	HI-1—Colleen Hanabusa	D	ME-1—Chellie Pingree	D
CA-33—Henry Waxman	D	IA-1—Bruce Braley	D	ME-2—Mike Michaud	D
CA-34—Xavier Becerra	D	IA-2—David Loebsack	D	MI-SEN—Debbie Stabenow	D
CA-35—Joe Baca	D	IA-3—Leonard Boswell	D	MI-1—Gary McDowell	D
CA-36—Raul Ruiz	D	IA-4—Christie Vilsack	D	MI-3—Steve Pestka	D
CA-37—Karen Bass	D	IL-1—Bobby Rush	D	MI-5—Dan Kildee	D
CA-38—Linda Sánchez	D	IL-2—Jesse Jackson Jr.	D	MI-9—Sander Levin	D
CA-40—Lucille Roybal-Allard	D	IL-3—Daniel Lipinski	D	MI-10—Candice Miller	R
CA-41—Mark Takano	D	IL-4—Luis Guterierrez	D	MI-12—John Dingell	D
CA-43—Maxine Waters	D	IL-5—Michael Quigley	D	MI-13—John Conyers	D
CA-44—Janice Hahn	D	IL-7—Danny Davis	D	MI-14—Gary Peters	D
CA-44—Laura Richardson	D	IL-8—Tammy Duckworth	D	MN-1—Tim Walz	D
CA-46—Loretta Sanchez	D	IL-9—Jan Schakowsky	D	MN-2—Mike Obermueller	D





Committee, laid out the stakes of the fall election for delegates.

“Do we want to become a country where a lucky few are allowed to write their own rules and do really well while everyone else struggles to barely get by? Or do we want to be a country where everyone has a chance to see their hard work pay off, where everybody gets a fair shot, everybody does their fair share and everybody plays by the same rules?” she asked.

“President Obama understands that generations of working men and women organized and mobilized,

protested and picketed, and gave so much—in some cases, their own lives—for the rights and freedoms we enjoy today: justice on the job, the right to collective bargaining, fairness for our families, dignity in retirement,” Wasserman Shultz said. “That is what our nation’s letter carriers, what America’s labor movement, have been fighting for our entire nation’s history.”

Obama, she said, “will never allow anyone to take those fundamental rights and freedoms away from you. No one.”

Obama tops the list of candidates for federal office that NALC has endorsed

for this fall’s elections. These candidates will receive support from the Committee on Letter Carrier Political Education (COLCPE).

“We consider candidates, from both political parties, based on one factor: Do they support letter carriers?” President Rolando said. “Our jobs and our futures are on the line. As federal workers, our lives are directly affected by Congress. We have to be involved in elections and help pro-letter carrier candidates get their message to the voters.”

The candidates endorsed are below. ☒

MN-4—Betty McCollum D  
 MN-5—Keith Ellison D  
 MN-6—Jim Graves D  
 MN-7—Collin Peterson D  
 MN-8—Richard Nolan D  
 MO-SEN—Claire McCaskill D  
 MO-1—William Lacy Clay Jr. D  
 MO-3—Blaine Luetkemeyer R  
 MO-5—Emanuel Cleaver II D  
 MO-6—Sam Graves R  
 MO-4—Teresa Hensley D  
 MO-8—Jo Ann Emerson R  
 MS-2—Bennie Thompson D  
 MT-SEN—Jon Tester D  
 MT-AL—Kim Gillan D  
 NC-1—G.K. Butterfield D  
 NC-3—Walter Jones R  
 NC-4—David Price D  
 NC-7—Mike McIntyre D  
 NC-8—Larry Kissell D  
 NC-12—Mel Watt D  
 NC-11—Hayden Rogers D  
 ND-SEN—Heidi Heitkamp D  
 ND-AL—Pam Guleson D  
 NE-SEN—Bob Kerrey D  
 NE-2—Lee Terry R  
 NH-1—Carol Shea-Porter D  
 NH-2—Charlie Bass R  
 NJ-SEN—Robert Menendez D  
 NJ-1—Robert Andrews D  
 NJ-2—Frank LoBiondo R  
 NJ-3—Jon Runyan R  
 NJ-4—Chris Smith R  
 NJ-6—Frank Pallone D  
 NJ-7—Leonard Lance R  
 NJ-8—Albio Sires D  
 NJ-9—Bill Pascrell D  
 NJ-10—Donald Payne Jr. D  
 NJ-12—Rush Holt D  
 NM-SEN—Martin Heinrich D  
 NM-1—Michelle Lujan Grisham D  
 NM-3—Ben Ray Lujan D  
 NV-SEN—Shelley Berkley D  
 NV-1—Dina Titus D  
 NV-3—John Oceguera D  
 NV-4—Steven Horsford D  
 NY-SEN—Kirsten Gillibrand D  
 NY-1—Timothy Bishop D

NY-2—Peter King R  
 NY-3—Steve Israel D  
 NY-4—Carolyn McCarthy D  
 NY-5—Gregory Meeks D  
 NY-6—Grace Meng D  
 NY-7—Nydia Velazquez D  
 NY-9—Yvette Clarke D  
 NY-10—Jerrold Nadler D  
 NY-11—Michael Grimm R  
 NY-12—Carolyn Maloney D  
 NY-13—Charles Rangel D  
 NY-14—Joseph Crowley D  
 NY-15—Jose Serrano D  
 NY-16—Eliot Engel D  
 NY-17—Nita Lowey D  
 NY-18—Sean Maloney D  
 NY-20—Paul Tonko D  
 NY-21—Bill Owens D  
 NY-22—Richard Hanna R  
 NY-23—Tom Reed R  
 NY-24—Dan Maffei D  
 NY-25—Louise Slaughter D  
 NY-26—Brian Higgins D  
 NY-27—Kathy Hochul D  
 OH-SEN—Sherrod Brown D  
 OH-3—Joyce Beatty D  
 OH-7—Joyce Healy-Abrams D  
 OH-9—Marcy Kaptur D  
 OH-10—Michael Turner R  
 OH-11—Marcia Fudge D  
 OH-13—Timothy Ryan D  
 OH-16—Betty Sutton D  
 OK-2—Rob Wallace D  
 OR-1—Suzanne Bonamici D  
 OR-3—Earl Blumenauer D  
 OR-4—Peter DeFazio D  
 OR-5—Kurt Schrader D  
 PA-SEN—Bob Casey D  
 PA-1—Robert Brady D  
 PA-2—Chaka Fattah D  
 PA-6—Jim Gerlach R  
 PA-7—Pat Meehan R  
 PA-8—Mike Fitzpatrick R  
 PA-10—Tom Marino R  
 PA-12—Mark Critz D  
 PA-13—Allyson Schwartz D  
 PA-14—Mike Doyle D  
 PA-15—Charlie Dent R

PA-17—Matt Cartwright D  
 RI-SEN—Sheldon Whitehouse D  
 RI-1—David Cicilline D  
 RI-2—Jim Langevin D  
 SC-6—Jim Clyburn D  
 TN-1—Phil Roe R  
 TN-5—Jim Cooper D  
 TN-9—Stephen Cohen D  
 TX-4—Ralph Hall R  
 TX-9—Al Green D  
 TX-14—Nick Lampson D  
 TX-15—Ruben Hinojosa D  
 TX-18—Sheila Jackson Lee D  
 TX-20—Joaquin Castro D  
 TX-23—Pete Gallego D  
 TX-28—Henry Cuellar D  
 TX-29—Gene Green D  
 TX-30—Eddie Bernice Johnson D  
 TX-31—John Carter R  
 TX-33—Marc Veasey D  
 TX-34—Filemon Vela D  
 TX-35—Lloyd Doggett D  
 UT-4—Jim Matheson D  
 VA-SEN—Tim Kaine D  
 VA-2—Paul Hirschbiel D  
 VA-3—Bobby Scott D  
 VA-8—Jim Moran D  
 VA-9—Morgan Griffith R  
 VA-11—Gerald Connolly D  
 VT-SEN—Bernie Sanders I  
 VT-AL—Peter Welch D  
 WA-SEN—Maria Cantwell D  
 WA-1—Suzan DelBene D  
 WA-2—Rick Larsen D  
 WA-6—Derek Kilmer D  
 WA-7—Jim McDermott D  
 WA-9—Adam Smith D  
 WA-10—Denny Heck D  
 WI-SEN—Tammy Baldwin D  
 WI-1—Rob Zerban D  
 WI-2—Mark Pocan D  
 WI-3—Ron Kind D  
 WI-4—Gwen Moore D  
 WI-7—Pat Kreitlow D  
 WI-8—Jamie Wall D  
 WV-SEN—Joe Manchin D  
 WV-1—David McKinley R  
 WV-3—Nick Rahall D