



NARFE Advocacy in the 117th Congress

North Carolina Federation

Presented by Jessica Klement

Staff VP, Policy and Programs

Agenda



- **A Look at the 117th Congress**
- **Executive Branch Relations**
- **Legislative Priorities**
- **Current Grassroots Campaigns**
- **LEGcon21**
- **NARFE-PAC**
- **Q&A**

A Look at the 117th Congress

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2020 Election Results

- Democratic control of the House, Senate and White House
- Narrow majority in House
- 50-50 split in Senate
 - VP Harris provides tie-breaker vote



Budget Reconciliation

- Expedited procedure allows for changes in taxes and mandatory spending programs
 - Only requires a simple majority in the Senate
- Does not allow changes to Social Security
 - Cannot be used to pass a WEP/GPO repeal or reform bill
- Used in the past
 - American Rescue Plan Act
 - Trump tax overhaul
 - Affordable Care Act
 - Bush tax cuts





Bipartisan Budget Deal on Government Funding

- New budget caps must be agreed to for FY22 and FY23
- Will require bipartisan agreement, deal-making
- Offsets required?
- Cuts to federal benefits on the table?
- Full Biden FY22 budget expected early summer

Executive Branch Relations



Biden on NARFE Issues (NARFE Candidate Questionnaire)

- Opposes proposals to retroactively change federal retirement benefits
 - Increasing retirement contributions
 - Lowering benefits
 - Reducing COLAs
- Opposes “any and all efforts to reduce benefits under FEHB”
- Supports “full repeal of the WEP and GPO”
- Supports using the CPI-E for Social Security COLAs



Biden on NARFE Issues (NARFE Candidate Questionnaire)

- Committed to “consistent and regular pay increases necessary to ensure federal salaries remain competitive.”
- Health benefits for postal retirees
 - “I support prospective enrollment in Medicare for future retirees as long as it does not jeopardize the benefits of those currently participating in the program and protects those enrolled in Medicare from paying more in aggregate than they do now.”
- Civil service
 - “Committed to protecting the civil service merit system and federal workers’ due process rights.”
 - Will work to “modernize hiring practices,” ensure federal government “serves as a model for employers to treat their workers fairly.”

Executive Branch Relations



Interactions With Administration

- Transition Team meeting
- NARFE Letter to Biden administration
 - Protect federal retirement and health benefits
 - Revitalize the federal workforce
 - Support WEP/GPO repeal (and reform)
- OPM/OMB political appointees
 - Ongoing communication with new political leadership at OPM and OMB
 - COVID task force meetings
 - PSRW meetings





What's Next?

- Budget proposal
 - Full release in May/June
- OPM reform/modernization
 - NAPA report
 - IT modernization
 - Retirement processing improvements
 - Government-wide federal human capital reform
- Congressional agenda?



Legislative Priorities



NARFE Supports

- Repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO)
 - Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82/S. 1302
 - Repeals the WEP and GPO entirely



NARFE Supports

- WEP Reform
 - The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, H.R. 2337
 - 62 years old before 2023
 - » Provide rebate of \$150 per month
 - 62 years old in 2023 or later
 - » Subjected to new formula or current whichever provides a lower penalty



NARFE Supports

- Accurate cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees
 - The Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304 (117th Congress)
 - Equalizes COLAs among different classes of federal retirees
 - The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 1553 (116th Congress)
 - Requires the use of the CPI-E to measure cost of living
 - No bill yet in the 117th Congress





NARFE Supports

- 2022 Federal Pay Raise
 - The Fair Act, H.R. 392/S. 561
 - Introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, and Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI
 - 2.2% across-the-board plus 1% locality pay





NARFE Supports

- U.S. Postal Service reform
 - Relieving undue financial burdens
 - Providing emergency financial relief
 - Preserving universal service to the American people
 - Protecting postal retiree health benefits, including preserving choice regarding Medicare Part B



NARFE Opposes

- U.S. Postal Service reform
 - Mandatory changes to postal retiree health benefits
 - Requiring Part B coverage as condition of retaining benefits
 - Undermining the strength of FEHB for all federal employees and retirees
 - Potential for higher FEHB premiums due to changing risk pool



NARFE Supports

- Revitalizing the federal workforce
 - Support nomination of human capital expert as director of OPM
 - Assess the state of federal personnel practices (e.g., hiring, training)
 - Modernize personnel practices
 - Support improvements to federal human capital management



Current Grassroots Campaigns



How to Take Action on Current Priorities

- Meetings
- Phone calls
- Write: Visit NARFE's Legislative Action Center
 - Access action alert and talking points
 - Edit the sample letter to reflect your experience with the issue
 - Send emails directly to your lawmakers



GPO and WEP Repeal and Reform Bills

- The Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82/S. 1302
 - NC Cosponsors: Reps. Price and Manning
- The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, H.R. 2337
 - NC Cosponsors: Reps. Adams, Manning, Ross
- **Action**
 - **Ask your Representative to cosponsor both bills or thank them for doing so**
 - **Goal: 290 House cosponsors to guarantee floor vote**



Accurate Cost-of-Living Adjustments

- The Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304
 - No North Carolina cosponsors
- **Action**
 - **Ask your Representative to cosponsor the bill**



2022 Federal Pay Raise

- The Fair Act, H.R. 392/S. 561
 - NC Cosponsors: Rep. Price
- **Action**
 - **Ask your legislators to cosponsor the bill or thank Rep. Price**



LEGcon21



LEGcon21: NARFE's Legislative Training Conference

- June 21-23
- Registration is now [open](#)
 - Visit NARFE's website to register and view the schedule and session information
 - Virtual meetings with lawmakers on the final day



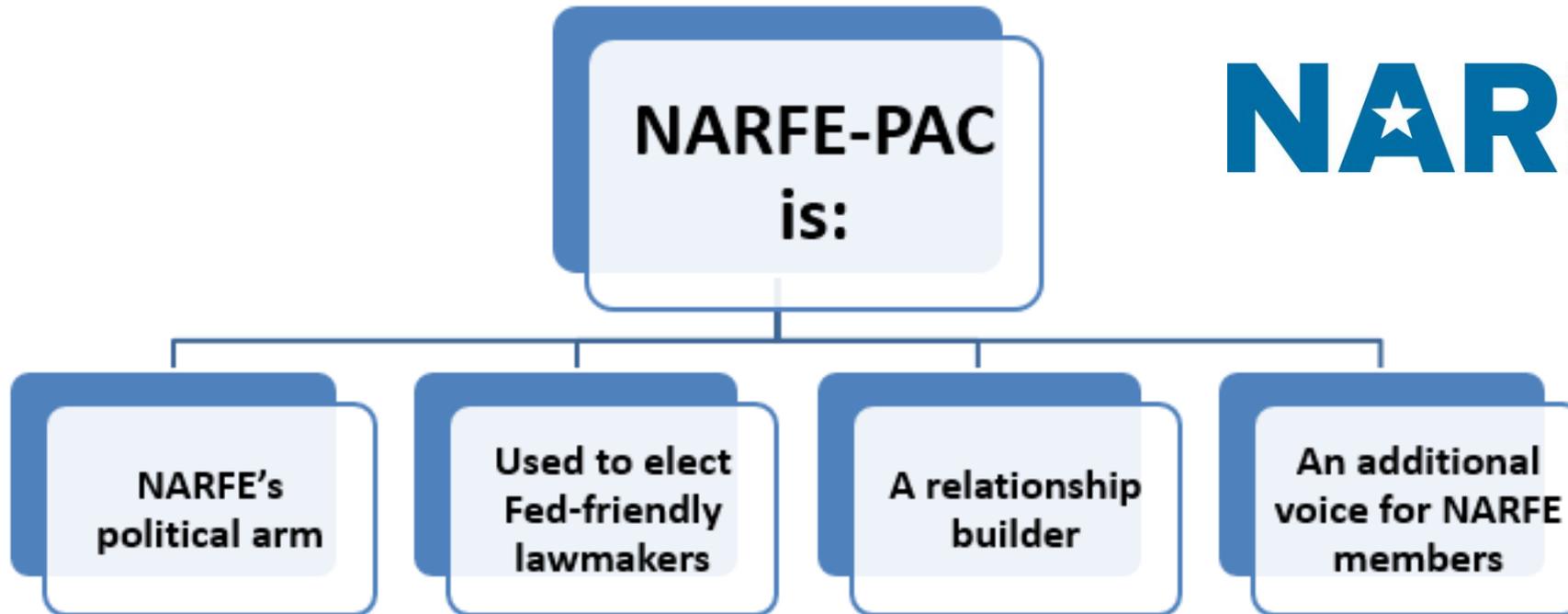
LEGcon21: NARFE's Legislative Training Conference

- **Why participate?**
 - Learn how to make the most of virtual meetings with your legislators
 - Hear from grassroots experts and learn bold ideas to improve your advocacy skills
 - Learn how to become a more influential advocate by building and sustaining relationships

NARFE-PAC



NARFE-PAC





NARFE-PAC

**NARFE-PAC
is not:**

Partisan



**Used in
presidential
races**



**Calendars or
notepads
from NARFE**

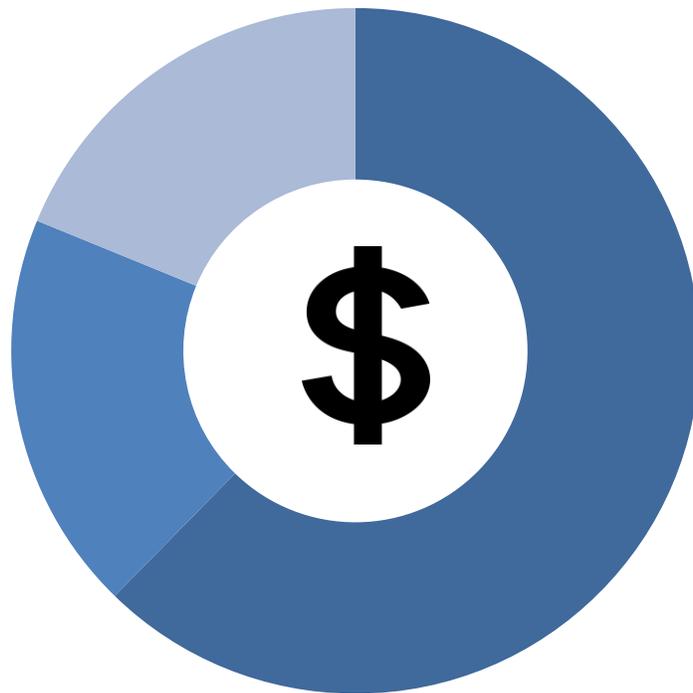


**A “connected
fund” of
NARFE**





2019-2020 NARFE-PAC Disbursements



- Candidates
\$895,000
- Committees
\$271,000
- National Parties
\$270,000

Total Contributions: \$2,173,897.64
Total Disbursements: \$1,436,000



North Carolina: Contributions to NARFE-PAC 2019-2020 Cycle

- National only members
 - Contributors – 499
 - Sustainers – 6
 - Total contributions – \$31,115.50

- Chapter members
 - Contributors – 386
 - Sustainers – 25
 - Total Contributions – \$32,698.00



NARFE-PAC Goals for 2021-2022

**Raise \$1.85
million**

**Disburse
\$1.35 million**

**Attend 120 in-
district
fundraisers**



North Carolina: Contributions to NARFE-PAC 2021-2022 Cycle

- National only members
 - Contributors – 159
 - Sustainers – 6
 - Total contributions – \$5,748.00

- Chapter members
 - Contributors – 154
 - Sustainers – 22
 - Total Contributions – \$6,899.00



Contribution Levels

Maximize your support! Give monthly and become a NARFE-PAC sustainer.

Receive a NARFE-PAC Sustainer Pin



\$25 – \$49 Basic



\$50 – \$99 Bronze



\$100 – \$249 Silver



\$250 – \$499 Gold



\$500+ Platinum

Thank You

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