

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

November 2016

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

If this reaches you before the election – please take the time to go vote. Don't let the TV ads and barrage of campaign letters dissuade you from casting your ballot. It is a right that comparatively few people in the world enjoy, don't take it for granted.

You can debate the virtues of the electoral college vs. a simple majority vote from the entire country. You may think your vote doesn't count. It does. There have been many elections decided by a handful of ballots. Together, letter carriers are that handful - and more.

Apparently you can call into question the validity of the election itself – in an effort to save face? Or is it an effort to create the atmosphere for the continuance of an ineffective government for the next four years? Do our potential leaders really mistrust a system that has been in place and been effective for 240 years? Is that image of the United States shared around the country and the world? I hope not. How many times have we sent observers to other countries in an effort to ensure open and honest elections?

How about at least having a fully staffed Supreme Court Mr. Grassley? There is a way to get it done that doesn't involve delay tactics. That's not politics –that's irresponsible. I think letter carriers know the effect of understaffing – it ain't pretty.

It's no secret that the two major party Presidential candidates have the worst favorability rating ever. In part, it's a product of what has been happening in Washington for many years now. There is an inability for people to work together because they fear losing their job. Compromise is seen as a dirty word, a sign of weakness. It seems instead that many leaders- both R's and D's, would rather risk the good of the country in favor of the good of their party.

It will be a rough 4 years for whomever lands in the White House. The divide is deep, we need our leaders to find a way to work together. I would rather see Hillary Clinton take on that challenge than to see Donald Trump make the divide deeper.

I wish all of my union brothers and sisters a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Jim Beach
President
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www.iowalettercarriers.org