



**National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees Association**

**NARFE**

**Legislative Advocacy**

**What is it and why does it  
matter?**



# **NARFE's Mission Statement**

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- **To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.**
- **To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.**
- **To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.**



# **What is Legislative Advocacy**

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- **Advocacy: the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal : the act or process of advocating something**
- **Advocate:**
  - 1: one that pleads the cause of another;**
  - 2: one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal**
  - 3: one that supports or promotes the interests of another**



# **Why Does it Matter?**

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**It's all about the**

**MONEY !**



# **Why Does it Matter?**

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- **It's about current employee pay and staffing**
- **It's about pensions; both retiree's and current employee's**
- **It's about the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan**
- **It's about the Thrift Savings Plan**
- **It's about Social Security**
- **It's about Medicare**



# **Current Employee Pay and Staffing**

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- **Current employees have been without a pay raise for three years.**
- **What is in the president's budget is a 1% pay raise.**
- **The private sector has seen pay raises of up to 8% over that same time frame.**
- **Government employees still make at least 35% less than their civilian counterparts on average.**
- **A proposed 8.7% pay reduction for all federal employees making over \$100,000.**
- **Cut the current federal workforce by 10% across the board through attrition (one hire for every three who leave or retire).**
- **Allow the firing of federal employees who are delinquent on their taxes.**



# Pensions

- **Current Congressional budget proposals call for current federal employees to pay 6% toward their basic pension. That is 5.15% more than what most are paying (0.85%).**
- **There is also a proposal to eliminate the current Federal Employee Retirement system and just have a 401K retirement savings plan (the current Thrift Savings Plan).**
- **Eliminate the Social Security Supplement portion of retirement for those who decide to retire early before Social Security eligibility.**
- **Change the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used for calculating Cost of Living Increases (COLAs) so that future COLAs will be less.**



# FEHBP

- **Current Congressional budget plans call for changing the way the government share of FEHBP premiums are calculated:**
  - **By basing the government contribution on years of service (no details have been available on this),**
  - **Increasing postal employees' share of their premiums,**
  - **Tying the governments share of premium increases to inflation.**





# Thrift Savings Change

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- **Cut the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan Government Securities G Fund from a mix of Treasury Securities that yield a higher rate of return (0.18% for February and 2.22% for the 12 month period prior) to a one month short term bond rate – currently 0.01% making that investment worthless.**



# **Social Security**

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- **Eliminate the Social Security Supplement for early FERS retirees who are not yet eligible for Social Security.**
- **Repeal of WEP and GPO will not happen with the current Congressional majority.**



# Medicare

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- **The “Doc Fix” changing the formula for compensation for doctors servicing Medicare patients to a modest 0.5% increase in payments for the next 5 years and then transitioning to a performance-based payment formula after that.**



# How do we do Advocacy

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- **We must stay current on ongoing legislative activities**
  - **Thru Protect America's Heartbeat Daily Media Monitoring**
  - **NARFE Legislative Hotline**
  - **Protect America's Heartbeat Regional Conference Calls**
  - **Protect America's Heartbeat Legislation Update for Chapters and Federations**
  - **Protect America's Heartbeat Training webinars**
  - **NARFE's Legislative Action Center**



# How do we do Advocacy

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- **Contact with elected officials**
  - **Call your legislators office**
  - **Through formal settings (appointment with them or staff at their local office)**
  - **Attend town hall meetings (and say hello after) or open office hours**
  - **Participate in other community sponsored events (parades, political events, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce)**
  - **Write to them at their local office (constituents from home are considered head and shoulders above other interest groups).**
  - **Send them an email on your subject of interest**
  - **Write about your story working for the federal government and why it matters**
  - **Write letters to your legislator or to the editor of your local/area newspaper about your legislators policy positions and how they impact you**



# How do we do Advocacy

- **Things you need to know or watch out for**
  - **Getting into a great discussion of other subjects not related to what you are there to talk with them about (sports, family, weather, etc.)**
  - **Fake non-committal language that makes you think they are listening to you (but they will vote against you at every turn)**
    - **“Yeah, we really need to be sure we look at that.”**
  - **Don’t just ask for things, provide a compliment once in a while if you can and offer help.**



# How do we do Advocacy

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- **Do not be afraid to confront your Senators or Congressman with hard direct questions and issues.**
- **Do not be afraid to tell anyone the truth about federal employment and retirement including Congressional retirement.**



# Why is Advocacy Important

FORM 1105 (2016)  
Official Republican Party Document

Registration #: 1017.10163365

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## 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM SURVEY

Prepared For: **BORNMAN HOUSEHOLD**  
Congressional District:

Kansas 03

Mr. Louis Bornman, Jr.  
12309 W. 74th Terrace  
Shawnee, KS 66216-3659

NOTICE: This DOCUMENT IS REGISTERED to the individual named below and must be accounted for during tabulation. If you choose not to represent your district in this official Presidential Platform Survey, sign and return this Document using the pre-addressed envelope provided.



302080726 N15PJ038

Information Correction Requested: (Please make changes directly on this form.)

**Instructions:** Carefully read and answer each of the following questions by clearly filling in the box. Regardless of whether you are undecided or choose not to answer a few of the questions, please return this completed Platform Survey within the next 7 days to ensure accurate tabulation and dependable results.

Example: Correct  Incorrect

### OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN PARTY DOCUMENT -- DO NOT DESTROY

**Demographic Information:** Please mark the information that applies to you or your household. This section is optional.

**Age Group:**  
 18-25  26-35  36-50  51-65  66-75  76+

**Marital Status:**  
 Single  Married  Widowed

**Homeownership:**  
 Rent  Live with relative  Own your home  Other

**Education:**  
 High School Degree  Some College  
 College Degree  Post-Graduate Degree  Other

**Employment:**  
 Full-time Employment  Part-time employment  Student  
 Unemployed/Seeking Work  Retired  Not Applicable

#### Voting Information:

Do you have any interest in serving as a volunteer to help at your local Republican

5. Which of the following policy stances do you believe our 2016 Republican Presidential Nominee should embrace? Mark as many as you like to indicate their importance to you.

- Defends our Constitutional Freedoms
- Pledges to reduce federal spending
- Has a plan to reform the federal tax code
- Wants to stop expansion of the federal debt
- Promises to repeal and replace ObamaCare
- Favors strengthening border security
- Calls for expansion of domestic exploration for oil and natural gas
- Supports a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants
- Willing to confront public employees' unions
- Plans for regulatory reform to help the private sector create jobs
- Proudly pro-life
- Believes in a foreign policy of "peace through strength"
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION II. - Economic Issues

6. Do you support federal tax reform that eliminates deductions and lowers







# Why is Advocacy Important

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# **Legislative Advocacy**

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# **QUESTIONS ?**