

Report for (Civic) Duty

Every four years, voters in the United States make a series of critical choices that shape the direction and philosophy of the federal government. These decisions have a direct and lasting effect on our lives as professional airline pilots. I believe that we have a civic duty to pay attention to those elections and to participate in their outcome.



Fulfilling that civic duty means more than voting. It means staying informed about issues that will directly affect your career. It means communicating with elected officials at all levels of government. It means paying attention to decisions they make and holding them accountable for their actions.

Civic duty demands that we be informed pilots. The airline piloting profession and the airline industry in general are more regulated, legislated, and politicked than any other private industry or profession in the nation. And as your union representative, ALPA is fully engaged. It is the union's mission to protect all airline pilots' professional interests—our jobs, our retirements, our careers, our quality of life, and our company's success.

Civic duty requires personal involvement. Our union runs on pilot representatives who volunteer vast amounts of time and energy to help our pilot families and all of our two nations' citi-

I ask each ALPA member to report for (civic) duty throughout this election year. Your mission: get engaged in national, state, provincial, and local politics by learning how each government level affects your profession and your future. And, of course, vote.

zens by protecting our skies, ensuring safe flights, and building a positive future for the overall airline piloting profession.

As pilots, we can sit back and accept the decisions made by Congress, Parliament, the administration, and bureaucrats from the various government agencies that regulate our lives. Or, pilots in the United States can engage in our civic duties and support our union's political action committee (ALPA-PAC) with voluntary contributions to win congressional and presidential support for our families and ourselves. The PAC funds are used to provide campaign aid to politicians who support our issues and concerns.

ALPA-PAC is incredibly efficient. Your voluntary donations of your hard-earned dollars go toward helping pro-pilot candidates get elected and reelected. Our PAC is here to help us

accomplish our collective civic duty. It is responsible for launching a comprehensive informational program for our members of the declared U.S. presidential candidates and their views on issues that affect the professional interests of ALPA members.

When the Board of Directors voted me in as President of



ALPA, the Board also granted me the power—with the advice and consent of the Executive Board—to endorse a presidential

candidate whose positions and policies will most benefit the quality of our members' professional lives and to support candidates for Congress from both parties who support pilots.

To accomplish this goal, however, we need your input. While ALPA has already started polling our members (see results on page 17) and questioning the candidates (see responses on page 15), your union can represent your true interests only when we are fully engaged together.

It's pretty difficult for our union to participate successfully in the U.S. political system without risking internal—sometimes heated—debate, but it is our duty to properly arm you with all the information you need to make an informed decision on ALPA's presidential candidate endorsement.

As the labor organization of the airline piloting profession, our representatives put aside their personal views on nonpilot, social, and even national-security issues to determine what is in ALPA's best interest in endorsing. Their debate will depend on what type of feedback they receive from their informed pilots. The goal: to democratically reach decisions based on informed deliberation on how best to protect airline pilots' interests—from their current jobs to the future of the profession.

My duty, as a union officer and your president, is to consider your career and profession above all—not to tell you how to vote. As a member of this union and as a citizen, you carry the personal duty to examine the candidates and measure their positions on all issues to determine your priorities, and then cast your vote accordingly.

As President, I ask each ALPA member to report for (civic) duty throughout this election year. Your mission: get engaged in national, state, provincial, and local politics by learning how each government level affects your profession and your future. And, of course, vote.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Prater". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.