

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General and Chief Executive
Officer
United States Postal Service
473 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

We write to express our concern regarding President Trump's repeated threats to 'take over' the administration of American elections,¹ including his sustained effort to restrict voting by mail, and the United States Postal Service's (USPS) June 2, 2026 publication of a proposed rule (91 FR 32915) that would implement new federal requirements on mail-in voting.² Free, fair, and secure elections are the foundation of our democracy. To safeguard that principle, the United States Postal Service must continue to provide secure, reliable, and efficient delivery of mail-in ballots for all eligible voters.

President Trump has long sought to undermine confidence in mail-in voting, repeatedly claiming that “mail-in voting means mail-in cheating,” despite strict state safeguards governing the practice.³ On April 14, 2026, the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division demanded that Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett preserve and produce all ballots, ballot receipts, and ballot envelopes from the November 2024 federal election. This demand is the latest in a troubling pattern of DOJ actions targeting election materials, particularly mail-in ballots, in jurisdictions where President Trump lost.

President Donald Trump has also advanced a broader set of efforts aimed at restricting access to mail-in voting, often justified by unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud.⁴ He has urged congressional Republicans to pursue legislation limiting mail-in voting, despite bipartisan opposition, and has backed legal challenges, including at the Supreme Court, to state laws that permit the counting of ballots received after Election Day.⁵

¹ Corasaniti, Nick. "Why Trump's Calls to 'Nationalize' Voting Have Raised Midterm Fears." The New York Times, 7 Mar. 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/article/trumps-nationalize-voting-elections-midterms-explainer.html>.

² United States Postal Service, "Ballot Mail for Federal Elections," 91 FR 32915, June 2, 2026, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/02/2026-10968/ballot-mail-for-federal-elections>.

³ Green, Erica. "Trump Pushes Claims About Mail-In Voting in Florida." The New York Times, 26 Mar. 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/26/us/politics/trump-mail-in-voting-florida.html>.

⁴ Ziegler, Megan. "Save America Act: Trump-Backed Bill Targets Mail Ballots." LiveNOW from FOX, 10 Mar. 2026, <https://www.livenowfox.com/news/save-america-act-trump-mail-ballots-ban-senate-vote>.

⁵ Levine, Carrie. "Save America Act and Trump’s Election Messaging." Votebeat, 27 Feb. 2026, <https://www.votebeat.org/2026/02/27/save-america-act-trump-state-of-the-union-congress-elections-mail-ballots/>.

Taken together, these actions reflect a sustained effort to narrow access to voting by mail and to cast doubt on lawful election processes. In this context, it is critical that the United States Postal Service remain independent and not yield to political pressure that could interfere with its role as a neutral and reliable carrier of election mail.

These concerns are compounded by the June 2, 2026 proposed rule, in which USPS moves to implement Executive Order 14399 by amending the Domestic Mail Manual. The proposed rule would require state election officials to register with a new USPS Federal Ballot Mail Portal and submit a list of every voter to whom they intend to mail a ballot, along with a unique, serialized barcode assigned to each voter's envelope, at least 30 days before ballots are sent. Under the proposed rule, USPS would verify outbound ballot mailings against that list prior to acceptance and reject ballot mailings sent to individuals not on the list. The rule would also require each outbound and return ballot envelope to bear a unique Intelligent Mail barcode traceable to the individual voter, which USPS states will "facilitate law enforcement efforts." Taken together, these provisions would place USPS in an unprecedented gatekeeping role over which voters receive ballots, a function that belongs to the states and, where federal standards are required, to Congress.

Such a role would depart from longstanding practice and raise significant constitutional concerns, as authority over election administration is primarily vested in the states, with Congress establishing federal standards.⁶ The proposed rule's requirement that USPS verify ballot mailings against a federally administered list and reject non-compliant mailings risks undermining its core function as a neutral and reliable carrier of election mail and could disrupt the timely delivery of ballots, an essential service that millions of Americans rely on to exercise their right to vote.

The United States Postal Service is an independent federal agency and is not typically subject to executive orders or direct White House interference. Postmaster General Steiner, you have stated, "From our perspective, we don't get involved in policy or law; we just follow the law."⁷ The USPS must adhere to that principle and continue to carry out its core function as a neutral and reliable provider of mail service.

Given these developments and the stakes for Americans' ability to freely exercise their right to vote, we request additional information regarding USPS's response to recent executive actions, including the publication of the June 2, 2026 proposed rule. To better understand the scope and implications of these directives, please provide responses to the following questions no later than June 23, 2026:

1. The June 2, 2026 proposed rule cites 39 U.S.C. 401 and 404 as the statutory basis for conditioning the acceptance of mail-in ballots on compliance with a federally administered voter list. Please provide any legal analyses or memoranda upon which USPS relied in reaching that conclusion, and identify any additional statutory authority upon which USPS relies.


⁶ 39 U.S. Code § 10, <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title39/part2/chapter10&edition=prelim>.

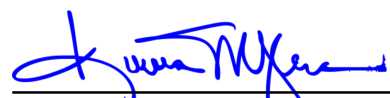
⁷ Sella, Adam. "Postal Service Budget and Mail Ballots." The New York Times, 11 Apr. 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/11/us/politics/postal-service-budget-mail-ballots.html>.


2. Please describe the full scope of internal preparations USPS is taking to implement the rule, if finalized, including the timeline for standing up the Federal Ballot Mail Portal and whether USPS has assessed the operational feasibility of meeting these requirements before the November 3, 2026 general election.
3. Beyond the interagency review process referenced in the proposed rule, what communications have taken place between the White House, the Department of Justice, and USPS regarding the development and implementation of the proposed rule and any related directives concerning mail-in or absentee ballots, including dates, participants, and substance?
4. What steps is USPS taking to ensure that all eligible voters who have requested a mail-in or absentee ballot under state law will receive one in the 2026 election cycle, including voters whose names are not included on a State-Specific Mail-In and Absentee Participation List at the time of ballot mailing?
5. Have there been any operational changes, resource reallocations, or policy modifications affecting election mail delivery since January 2025? If so, please describe the changes and their expected impact on 2026 election mail.


Please include all responsive documents and communications. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

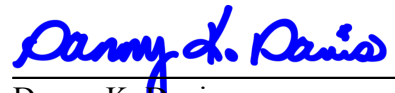

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

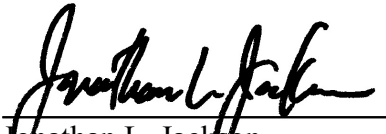

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



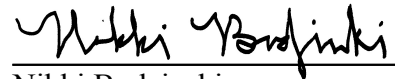
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



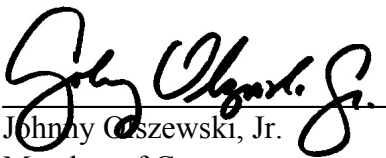
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



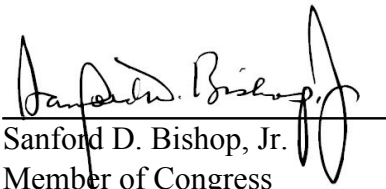
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Johnny Oszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



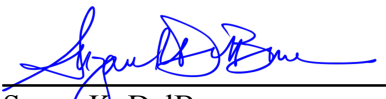
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



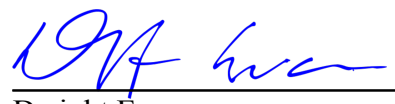
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



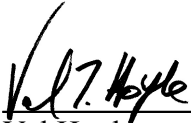
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



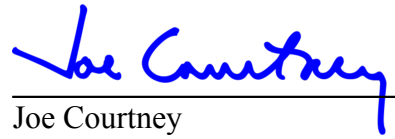
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



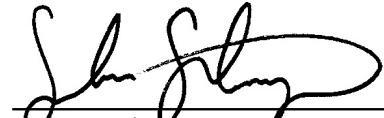
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



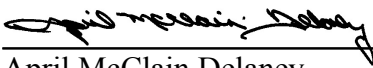
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



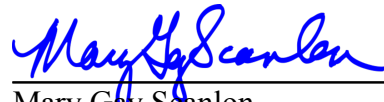
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



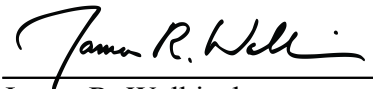
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress




April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



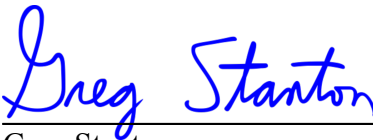
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress




James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



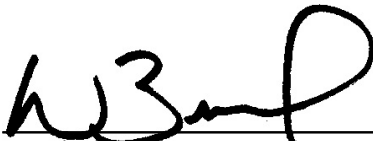
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress