

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 6, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

We write regarding the United States Postal Service's obligations following the June 25, 2026, injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani. In that ruling, Judge Talwani held that “the Constitution does not grant the President any specific powers over elections” and that USPS “lacks statutory authorization to promulgate any binding regulations on mail-in voting.”¹ Yet despite that unequivocal ruling, serious questions remain about whether USPS intends to continue advancing policies that would condition the delivery of election mail on states turning over voter registration and absentee ballot data to the federal government. Accordingly, we are demanding your immediate, unambiguous, and public commitment that USPS will fully comply with the court's order.

Until very recently, the United States Postal Service's position was unmistakably clear: it does not administer elections and has no authority to dictate how states conduct them. In a formal rulemaking published on November 24, 2025, USPS stated that “the Postal Service does not administer elections, establish the rules or deadlines that govern elections, or determine whether or how election jurisdictions utilize the mail.”²

That conclusion has now been reinforced by a second, independent ruling. On July 1, 2026, in *NAACP v. USPS*, Judge Emmet Sullivan in the District of Columbia granted a motion to enforce USPS's 2021 settlement agreement, under which USPS committed to prioritize the timely delivery of election mail, including mail-in ballots, enjoined USPS from implementing the very rule at issue here, holding that it breaches that settlement.³ Between Judge Talwani's holding that USPS lacks statutory authority to regulate mail-in voting at all, and Judge Sullivan's holding that the rule independently breaches USPS's own binding settlement commitments, the proposed rule is now doubly illegal.

For generations, USPS has served as a trusted, nonpartisan carrier of election mail, ensuring that Americans can exercise their right to vote regardless of where they live or whom they support. Congress insulated the Postal Service from political interference precisely to prevent any administration from using the mail system to influence, restrict, or manipulate access to the ballot.

Your testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on June 24, 2026, directly and irreconcilably contradicted USPS's longstanding position and asserted authority that a federal court would subsequently find USPS does not possess. When Ranking Member Senator Gary Peters asked whether USPS would continue delivering mail ballots to a state that refused to turn over its absentee voter rolls

¹ Nick Corasaniti & Adam Sella, *Federal Judge Strikes Key Parts of Trump Order Restricting Mail Voting*, N.Y. Times (June 25, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/25/us/politics/trump-mail-in-voting-ruling.html>

² *Postmarks and Postal Possession*, 90 Fed. Reg. 52,883 (Nov. 24, 2025) (to be codified at 39 C.F.R. pt. 111), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/24/2025-20740/postmarks-and-postal-possession?sub4=Practicing-Law&ref=raisethebarmedia.co>

³ Jim Saksa, *Court Blocks USPS from Implementing Trump's Anti-Mail Voting Order*, Democracy Docket (July 1, 2026), <https://www.democracymedia.com/news-alerts/court-blocks-usps-from-implementing-trumps-anti-mail-voting-order/>

to the federal government, you responded with a single word: “No.”⁴ You further stated that USPS would “tell the state that we need the manifest” — effectively conditioning the delivery of ballots on states surrendering sensitive voter data to the federal government.⁵

These concerns do not arise in a vacuum. Across issue after issue, the Trump administration has responded to adverse court rulings not with compliance, but with delay, obstruction, and continued efforts to advance policies that federal judges have found unlawful. According to an Associated Press review of court records, since February 2025, federal judges have found the administration in violation of court orders in at least 31 separate cases involving federal funding, mass layoffs, deportations, and immigration enforcement, in addition to more than 250 individual findings of noncompliance in immigration matters alone.⁶ Legal scholars have described this pattern as “legalistic noncompliance” — the use of legal procedures and technical arguments to delay, narrow, or evade compliance with court orders while claiming adherence to them.⁷

Against that backdrop, your assurance before the Senate that USPS would comply with court orders only “if” a court acts offers little comfort.⁸ A court has acted. A federal judge has already ruled that USPS lacks authority to regulate mail-in voting. Accordingly, we request written answers to the following questions no later than July 16th, 2026:

1. Will USPS fully comply with the June 25, 2026, federal court injunction and immediately halt all implementation of the executive order blocked by that ruling?
2. Are you willing to appear voluntarily before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability to testify under oath regarding USPS's compliance with the injunction and its operational plans for the delivery of election mail? If you decline to appear voluntarily, Congressman Krishnamoorthi will pursue a congressional subpoena to compel your testimony.

The law is clear: USPS has no authority to regulate mail-in voting, dictate how states conduct elections, or condition the delivery of ballots on states surrendering sensitive voter data to the federal government. No president can override the law with an executive order. A federal court has now reaffirmed those limits. Any effort to transform the Postal Service from a neutral carrier of election mail into an instrument of voter suppression will be met with immediate congressional action. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and look forward to your response by July 16th, 2026.

Sincerely,

⁴ Dan Cooney, *WATCH: Under Proposed Rule, USPS Won't Deliver Mail Ballots to States That Don't Provide Voter Rolls, Postmaster General Says*, PBS NewsHour (June 24, 2026), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-under-proposed-rule-usps-wont-deliver-mail-ballots-to-states-that-dont-provide-voter-rolls-postmaster-general-says>

⁵ Jacob Knutson, *'It Will Destroy the Postal Service': USPS Plan to Crack Down on Mail Voting Spurs Alarm*, Democracy Docket (June 24, 2026), <https://www.democracydocket.com/news-alerts/postmaster-general-steiner-mail-voting-crackdown-alarm/>

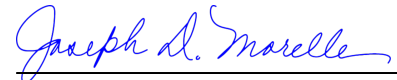
⁶ Associated Press, *Takeaways From AP Report on Trump Administration's Defiance of Lower Court Orders*, U.S. News & World Report (May 2, 2026), <https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2026-05-02/takeaways-from-ap-report-on-trump-administrations-defiance-of-lower-court-orders>

⁷ Protect Democracy, *The Trump Administration's Conflict With the Courts, Explained* (Oct. 2, 2025), <https://protectdemocracy.org/work/the-trump-administrations-conflict-with-the-courts-explained/>

⁸ Tierney Sneed, *Judge Halts Trump Executive Order Aimed at Mail Voting in States That Challenged It*, CNN (June 25, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/25/politics/judge-blocks-trump-mail-ballot-order>



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