

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2026

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

Dear Postmaster General Steiner,

I write to express my grave concerns regarding the recent executive order issued by President Donald Trump directing the United States Postal Service (USPS) to limit the delivery of absentee and mail ballots to only voters on a federally compiled eligibility list, and to mandate new ballot envelope requirements. These directives would place USPS in an unprecedented gatekeeping role — effectively determining which voters will receive ballots — despite longstanding constitutional principles that reserve election administration to the states and Congress.

Experts across the political spectrum have raised serious legal concerns about the executive branch's unprecedented power grab. Election law scholars and state officials have described the order as likely unconstitutional and impossible to implement, particularly given the complexity of various state election systems and timelines. For instance, states such as North Carolina begin processing absentee ballots weeks before Election Day and require counties to finalize ballot designs and candidate certifications months in advance, leaving little flexibility for last-minute federal changes.¹ In contrast, Wisconsin relies on a highly decentralized, municipal clerk-based system with statutory deadlines for sending absentee ballots—often weeks before elections—and strict receipt deadlines by Election Day, limiting flexibility for last-minute changes.²

Reports further indicate that USPS would be required to coordinate with federal agencies to rely on citizenship databases and state voter lists, raising significant risks related to data accuracy, privacy, and administrative feasibility. In practice, no single, comprehensive federal database reliably verifies citizenship status for all eligible voters, and existing systems maintained by agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security were not designed for election administration purposes. These databases often contain outdated, incomplete, or inconsistent records, which could result in eligible voters being incorrectly flagged or removed. At the same time, state voter rolls—maintained independently by each state—vary widely in structure, maintenance practices, and update frequency, complicating any effort to standardize or cross-reference data at the federal level.

Moreover, requiring USPS—an entity with no traditional role in voter verification—to integrate and reconcile these disparate systems would impose significant administrative burdens, introduce new points of failure, and likely create delays or errors that could undermine voter confidence and disrupt election administration, particularly in the lead-up to high-turnout federal elections.

These concerns are especially acute in light of the approaching 2026 midterm elections. Election experts have warned that the order is unlikely to be implementable before November and could create confusion among voters and election administrators if attempted. Moreover, state officials have indicated that compliance with a rigid, pre-approved voter list could conflict with existing state laws that allow voters to request mail ballots

¹ [North Carolina State Election Board, 2025](#)

² [MyVote Wisconsin, 2026](#)

close to Election Day—potentially disenfranchising eligible voters, including military members, seniors, and those who move shortly before an election.

Equally troubling is the justification underlying the executive order. Despite repeated claims of widespread fraud in mail-in voting, there is no credible evidence to support them. Investigations and analyses of recent elections—including the 2020, 2022, and 2024 cycles—have consistently found that voter fraud is exceedingly rare. For example, a 2025 analysis found an average fraud rate of approximately 0.000043% for mail ballots—roughly four cases per ten million votes cast.³ Similarly, election officials from both parties and numerous agency leaders appointed by President Trump, including former Attorney General William Barr and FBI Director Christopher Wray, have repeatedly affirmed the integrity and security of mail voting systems.⁴

Given USPS's critical role as a neutral and trusted institution, any effort to involve the Postal Service in determining voter eligibility or restricting ballot delivery raises profound concerns about the integrity of both the mail system and federal elections. USPS has historically served as a nonpartisan carrier of election mail—not an arbiter of voter access. Accordingly, I request that USPS provide a detailed response to the following no later than Monday, April 20th:

1. What legal analysis has USPS conducted regarding its authority—or lack thereof—to implement the directives contained in this executive order?
2. Has USPS received formal guidance from the Department of Justice or other federal agencies regarding compliance, and will USPS make that guidance available to Congress?
3. What operational changes would be required for USPS to implement these directives, and what are the projected impacts on mail delivery timelines nationwide?
4. What steps will USPS take to ensure that eligible voters are not disenfranchised due to administrative errors, delayed updates, or conflicts with state election laws?
5. Will USPS commit to maintaining its longstanding role as a neutral carrier of election mail and decline any responsibilities that require the agency to determine voter eligibility?

Congress has a constitutional obligation to conduct rigorous oversight of actions that may affect the administration of federal elections. The potential for this executive order to disrupt established election processes, undermine public confidence, and disproportionately impact voter access ahead of the 2026 midterms demands immediate transparency and accountability.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raja Krishnamoorthi", is written above a solid horizontal line.

³ [Brookings Institute, 2025](#)

⁴ [New York Times, 2020](#)