

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

WINTER 2021 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## SENATE GOES BLUE \$10 BILLION IN PANDEMIC RELIEF BUT DEJOY STILL IN CHARGE

The fortunes of postal workers and communities just got brighter, as the run-off election in Georgia gave the U.S. Senate a Democratic majority, paired with a Democratic majority in the House and a Democrat president.

The Democratic Party platform includes this statement on the US Postal Service: **“Strengthening the U.S. Postal Service:** *The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is the world’s most efficient mail carrier, and Democrats are wholly committed to supporting a public USPS. We will fight all efforts to privatize the USPS and will work to ensure the USPS is financially sustainable, including by repealing the mandate that the agency “pre-fund” retiree health costs. Democrats will protect the Postal Service’s universal service obligation as a core American value and maintain six-day and doorstep mail delivery, which is a lifeline for rural Americans. And we will work to restore service to appropriate levels, including overnight delivery of first-class mail and periodicals within the same metropolitan area, maintaining six-day and door-to-door delivery, and appointing members to the Board of Governors and the Postal Regulatory Commission who champion a strong public Postal Service. We will also support new revenue streams for the USPS, including allowing secure shipping of alcoholic beverages by mail and exploring options to enable unbanked and underbanked Americans to access financial services through the Postal Service.*

Paired with the recent \$10 Billion Congressional funding for “operational expenses” related to Covid relief, and a USPS report of \$14 Billion “cash on hand” at the end of fiscal year 2020, the possibilities for significant reversals of past decades cuts, closures and mail delays look good. Even the possibility of improvements such as electric vehicles and postal banking.

However, Louis DeJoy, the Trump mega-donor crony, the cruel, corrupt and criminal Postmaster General is still in charge. DeJoy can only be removed or reined in by the Postal Board of Governors, which is all made up of Trump appointees (4 Republicans, 2 Democrats), whose terms expire in a year to nine years. Although Congress (first the House and now the Senate) can and should certainly continue its pressure on and investigations of DeJoy -- the last House subpoena of DeJoy’s calendar turned up a totally redacted version -- the removal of DeJoy is up to the Postal Board of Governors (PBOG).

The American Postal Workers Union has launched a petition -- <https://www.apwu.org/petition> -- to President Biden and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders to quickly fill the vacancies on the PBOG with members who will rein in DeJoy and his destructive policies.

*“... We call on you to quickly fill the four vacancies of the Postal Board of Governors with diverse and community-based members who will build back better the Postal Service, serve our communities and help heal our economy.*

*To: President Biden, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader*

*From: [Your Name]*

*We call on you to quickly fill the four vacancies of the Postal Board of Governors with diverse and community-based members who:*

- *Are fully committed to vibrant, public and universal postal services*
- *Reject the Postmaster General’s agenda of cutting service and slowing the mail*
- *Will champion emergency COVID-relief for USPS*
- *Will support an agenda of expanding the role of the USPS in serving our communities*

*Filling the vacancies on the postal board is essential to build back better the Postal Service and to serve our communities and to help heal our economy.”* [apwu.org/petition](https://www.apwu.org/petition)



*New Orleans DSA calls for removal of PMG DeJoy at the home of Donald Lee Moak, member of the Postal Board of Governors (10/30/20)*

## CRUEL, CORRUPT, AND CRIMINAL TWO DOZEN REASONS TO DUMP DEJOY

**Mail delay** - driving away business and undermining public confidence  
**Understaffing**—which could have been anticipated

(Covid quarantine, online shopping, FedEx & UPS dumping)

**Poor safety practices** (testing, contact tracing, masks, social distancing) leading to infections and understaffing

**Low wages, forced overtime, stressful conditions** (speed-up) leading to new employees washing out

**Long hours and no days off** leading to early retirements

**Removal of mail processing machines and collection boxes**

**Running private contractors** (trucking) on long unnecessary trips, profiting those companies (and DeJoy’s investments in XPO)

**Criminality** – Broke U.S. and North Carolina **campaign finance laws**

with a “straw donor” scheme: Pressured employees to make campaign donations. Reimbursed employees for such donations, and used corporate money to support individual politicians

*[The House Committee on Oversight and Reform has opened an investigation into these allegations and the possibility that DeJoy lied to the committee, and has called for the Postal Service to suspend him]*

• [coworker.org/petitions/investigate-louis-dejoy-s-illegal-campaign-donations](https://coworker.org/petitions/investigate-louis-dejoy-s-illegal-campaign-donations)

**Corruption**—Contributed millions to Trump and Republican National Committee then jumped to the front of the line to be hired

*[Did not go through the normal vetting process for Postmaster General; two separate search firms were used by the USPS board, and neither firm mentioned DeJoy in their list of candidates]*

**Continues to hold stock** (through his children) in his former company that contracts with USPS – XPO— which has increased their business with USPS under DeJoy

*[New Breed Logistics overbilled the USPS when DeJoy was CEO]*

**Bad for workers** — A history of leading companies (New Breed Logistics & XPO) guilty of **union-busting, discrimination, excessive injuries, sexual harassment, inappropriate use of temps and independent contractors, denial of paid leave.**

\*A history of leading companies that **eliminate jobs** through automation and speed-up

**Replaced or reassigned** 23 senior USPS executives, displacing institutional knowledge

**Plans to reduce work hours** by 10% through

\*Running trucks & mail carriers on schedule, **with or without mail**

\***Eliminating overtime**

\***Reducing retail hours**

\***Consolidating plants**

\***Closing post offices**

**Plans to raise prices**

\*for delivery to Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico

\*for non-profit mailers

**Ideological commitment to privatization of public services** – a board member of the Fund for American Studies in Washington, DC

# THE POSTAL SERVICE: WHAT NOW?

(created by rank-and-file postal organizers who have a facebook page, Save Our Postal Service)

|                       | Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's vision:   | A public vision:   |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Delivery</b>       | <b>Reduce door-to-door delivery.</b> Push more customers into "cluster mailboxes." To cut costs, delay the mail more and more.   | <b>Defend our commitment to deliver on time to every household.</b> Maintain the service standards that seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and millions of other Americans depend on.  |
| <b>Post offices</b>   | <b>Reduce window hours at post offices,</b> creating even longer lines for customers. Lease space to private companies, inviting privatization of postal work.   | <b>Expand service into the evenings.</b> Open more windows to reduce the wait during peak hours. <b>Add services such as free broadband access,</b> fishing and hunting licenses, document shredding, driver's license renewal, and census support.  |
| <b>Postage</b>        | <b>Charge higher prices for postage to Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico.</b> Then raise the rates for rural areas too.  | <b>Maintain universal service and universal rates</b> for every corner of the U.S., including for the "last mile" of delivery.   |
| <b>Banking</b>        | <b>Do nothing about "banking deserts"</b> where check cashers and payday lenders extract \$100 billion a year in exorbitant fees from low-income residents.  | <b>Allow post offices to offer basic financial services</b> such as low-cost checking and savings accounts, ATMs, and mobile banking, creating \$9 billion a year in revenue, by enacting the Postal Banking Act sponsored by Senators Gillibrand and Sanders.   |
| <b>Network</b>        | <b>Close and consolidate post offices and mail plants,</b> breaking up a valuable infrastructure and delivering a blow to communities.   | <b>Preserve the network of 31,000 post offices and hundreds of mail processing plants.</b> Use them to aid emergency response in crises, as well as to deliver the mail.   |
| <b>Jobs</b>           | <b>Cut jobs and services.</b> Expand the lower-paid part-time workforce. Bust the postal unions. <b>Disregard worker safety.</b> Force mandatory overtime, speedup, and after-dark delivery—with some carriers working up to 16-hour days and going weeks without a day off. | <b>Hire more postal workers,</b> at full union wages and benefits, to alleviate the severe understaffing. Go back to reasonable work hours. <b>Defend good jobs in every neighborhood.</b> The Postal Service is the country's largest union workforce, and an important source of livable-wage jobs for Black workers (21 percent of the postal workforce), veterans (18 percent), and women (40 percent, compared to 20 percent at UPS). |
| <b>COVID</b>          | <b>Make no serious plan for the coronavirus surge.</b> Keep cases and exposures secret. Don't enforce masks. Tell people their paid leave is all used up, even when they need to quarantine or take care of their kids.  | <b>Provide fully paid COVID leave for as long as it is needed.</b> Mandate masks. Improve contact tracing. Allow those who can to work from home. Do better deep cleaning. Provide clear info when workers have been exposed or put at risk.   |
| <b>Climate</b>        | <b>Ignore climate concerns.</b> Keep using decrepit 30-year-old delivery vehicles that sometimes burst into flames.  | <b>Invest in a greener Postal Service, with a fleet of electric vehicles to deliver the mail.</b> At post offices, add solar panels and electric-car charging stations.  |
| <b>Finances</b>       | <b>Cut costs to maximize profits.</b> Sell off resources and services piece by piece.  | <b>Focus on public service, not profit.</b> The Postal Service is guaranteed to the people by the Constitution. Save \$5 billion per year by repealing the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which created a fake budget crunch by requiring extreme prefunding of retiree health benefits. Pass Medicare for All, alleviating the health care cost burden on the Postal Service.   |
| <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Answer to no one.</b> Unilaterally dismantle sorting machines, remove mailboxes, close facilities, reduce hours, change policies, and delay the mail.   | <b>Establish a public commission</b> to study innovations, welcome suggestions, and make recommendations. Examine creative ways to serve communities and build local resilience.   |
| <b>Trust</b>          | <b>Sabotage the Postal Service from within.</b> Erode the public trust. Pave the way for privatization.  | <b>Maintain confidence in the Postal Service to do what it has always done:</b> deliver medicines, Social Security checks, ballots, business mail, and packages on time.   |