

Communities and Postal Workers United

AUGUST 2026 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of Mail!*

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Postal Workers Rally in Scores of Cities to Protect Our Public Postal Service

On July 28th, the American Postal Workers Union, representing over 200,000 clerks, truck drivers, custodians, maintenance and other postal workers, rallied across the nation in scores of cities to draw attention to the many threats and attacks on the people's postal service. From the Postmaster General saying that the USPS is running out of money and suggesting that closing post offices and cutting days of delivery might be in the cards, to President Trump attempting to disrupt vote-by-mail to nominees to the Postal Board of Governors likely to prioritize corporate interests over that of the public.

APWU members, local and state unions, and members of the public hosted rallies and distributed informational flyers, hosted press events, organized postcard campaigns, and engaged neighbors in conversations about why the Postal Service matters. This from APWU press release:

"Postal workers are very concerned that President Trump has sent to the Senate four nominees to the USPS' Board of Governors who have no experience related to the USPS or even in the wider logistics and delivery industry. The Board of Governors sets policy and oversees the USPS. We're urging postal customers to contact their Senators and ask them to vote against these nominees..."

"The USPS is a public service -- not a business -- it is legally mandated to serve every household in every zip code, no matter how rural or remote. It earns most of its revenue from the sale of stamps and services and is not designed to make a profit. However, the postal service is under financial pressure and at the same time pressure to modernize.

"Those issues could largely be addressed if Congress would allow the postal service to place its pension investments in more diversified investment funds. The USPS has over \$300 billion in two pension funds and a retiree health benefit fund. Under current law, USPS can only invest those funds in US Treasury securities which return 2-3% per year. By allowing USPS to diversify its investment strategy -- like other businesses do and some parts of the government already do -- it would return much higher yields.

"If the USPS' Board of Governors and the Postmaster General fail to seek these financial and structural fixes, the USPS would likely be forced to cut hours and services at postal counters, raise prices for mail and packages and close some post offices.

"The next three months also will be pivotal for those who choose to vote by mail. Voting by mail has proven to be safe and secure. It's been used since the U.S. Civil War and in 2024's election 1 out of every 3 ballots was cast through the mail. However, some in Congress want to delegitimize mail ballots and pass the SAVE America Act, which if enacted, would limit the use of vote-by-mail. The courts will also decide in coming days if a March executive order that creates unnecessary roadblocks for those seeking mail ballots is allowed to move forward."

SIGN A LETTER TO YOUR SENATORS

This message is from "US Mail Not for Sale"...The people in charge of our public Postal Service should understand America's main street, not just Wall Street. But the Senate is poised to vote on the nominations of four USPS governors whose backgrounds are in hedge funds, fintech and commodities trading. One of the nominees is a former waste management executive with a history of troubling business associations.

Sign a letter to your Senators: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-the-corporate-raid-on-the-postal-service>



Protect Our Public Postal Service Rally, Des Moines IA, July 26, 2026

Letter Carriers Can Organize to Prevent Smoke Injury

by Jamie Partridge, NALC 82 retired, from Labor Notes, July 23, 2026

Letter carriers and other people who work outdoors, especially in the upper Midwest and East, are experiencing hazardous levels of smoke from Canadian wildfires. Some areas have been experiencing AQI (Air Quality Index) measurements of over 300, even over 500, with local authorities advising residents to stay indoors.

As temperatures continue to rise from climate change and vegetation dries out and catches fire from lightning, this situation will get worse.

We are being given advice by Postal Service management and our union leadership to make individual decisions about whether we are safe delivering mail in these conditions. Wrong! We are berated with the slogan "Safety Depends on Me!" Wrong!

Management should be following local health advisories and keep carriers off the street in these conditions. But reports from carriers all over the Midwest let us know that management is instructing carriers to deliver the mail and use a mask if desired and available. Wrong! (*masks should be mandatory, but sometimes even an N95 or P100 mask is not enough to prevent injury*)

Many carriers will follow management instructions despite concern for their own or co-workers' safety because they fear management retaliation if they do not—especially people in the more vulnerable job categories of City Carrier Associates and Part-Time Flexible employees.

Or they assume that they will not be impacted by the smoke. (*Hint: wildfire smoke inhalation can damage healthy individuals over time; see the last section of this article.*)

Or they do not want to be considered weak when others are going ahead. Or they don't want to bring back mail to have to face overburdened days to come.

THE ANSWER: COLLECTIVE ACTION

What is to be done? Collective action to protect all carriers, together. Here's a step-by-step approach:

1. Educate carriers on their right to refuse to work outdoors when there is dangerous smoke from wildfires and appropriate protective equipment unavailable, using stand-up meetings, flyers, bulletin boards, and breakroom meet-ups...(continued at <https://labornotes.blogs/2026/07/how-letter-carriers-can-organize-prevent-smoke-injury>)



Despite high-profile heat-related deaths, 'nothing has changed' for USPS carriers

Less than half of Dallas-area postal workers have access to air-conditioned vehicles

by Emma Ruby, July 28, 2026 (excerpted from Dallas Observer)

"Federal investigators with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are looking into the death of a North Texas postal worker who collapsed last week while delivering mail in triple-digit temperatures...

"The U.S. Postal Service has described the death of 58-year-old Umeshkumar Thakkar as "tragic," but for labor representatives for Dallas-based letter carriers, summer fatalities have become a near-annual occurrence.

"Kimetra Lewis, president of the Dallas chapter of the National Association of Letter Carriers, says that despite frequent public attention on the issue, little is actually being done to protect postal workers from the Texas heat.

"There have not been any changes put in place since Eugene's death," said Lewis, referencing the Dallas postal worker, Eugene Gates, who died in 2023 of a heat-related illness after delivering mail on a day the heat index reached 113 degrees. "[The USPS has] their process that they claim that they're going to do all this training, to ensure that letter carriers know in advance how to protect themselves. But that's not working, and I can't sit here and tell you that all letter carriers have gone through the training."

"Reporting by CBS News suggests that the vehicle Thakkar was driving at the time of his death was not equipped with air conditioning.

"Gates was also driving a vehicle with no air conditioning on the day he died... According to ... the USPS, there are more than 230,000 vehicles in the USPS fleet nationally, and at least 43,000 replacement vehicles equipped with air conditioning have been deployed in recent years.."

Letter Carriers Set to Deliver Change

by Alexandra Bradbury, July 29, 2026 (excerpted from Labor Notes)

"A leadership change looks likely in the Letter Carriers (NALC) this fall. Members are mad about low pay and forced overtime, dangerous heat and robberies, the rejected contract imposed last year, the backlog of tens of thousands of grievances, and the president's secretive approach to bargaining.

"There's not just one group pushing for change, but a whole ecosystem of reform groups, slates, and podcasters among the 5,000-plus delegates coming to Los Angeles for the union convention August 3-7...

"The convention has strongly democratic features. There are no major hurdles to getting nominated. Delegates vote on every constitutional amendment or resolution submitted by any branch or state association—this year there are many.

"[One is] an amendment for ranked-choice voting (where voters can indicate their second- and third-choice candidates and the resulting votes are tabulated in "instant runoffs"), to remove the fear of voting for a spoiler. [Buffalo] proposed that the national bargaining team include five officers, not just the president..

"They will also elect delegates to the 2030 AFL-CIO convention. A "Stand-Up Slate" of younger carriers is running on themes like universal health care and the abolition of billionaires.

"Some resolutions were submitted calling on the union to livestream the convention, which officers decided to do.

"Minneapolis Branch 9 and other branches have sent resolutions on political themes, like ending the war in Iran and funding public services..." (to read the full article, go to <https://labornotes.org/2026/07/letter-carriers-set-deliver-change-upcoming-union-election>)



Save Our Public Postal Service Rally, Portland OR July 26, 2026

Addressing the Postal Service's Financial Gap

(July 22, 2026 report from the USPS Inspector General)

"The Postal Service is expected to be self-sustaining and cover its costs through the sale of postal products and services. However, USPS is in dire financial condition, with costs exceeding revenue every year after fiscal year (FY) 2006 and combined losses over that timeframe totaling nearly \$118 billion. If left unaddressed, ongoing losses will threaten the Postal Service's ability to continue operations.

"To support efforts aimed at addressing the Postal Service's financial gap, the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) compiled 15 revenue-generating and cost-saving options for long-term sustainability. These options are not OIG recommendations. Instead, they are policy proposals made by various stakeholders over time, including the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), mailers and shippers, think tanks, and Congress.

"The options include strategies to grow revenue, fund the Postal Service's universal service obligation (USO) activities, enact benefits reform, restructure the workforce, and reduce operational costs...

here are some that postal workers support

- Adjust Market Dominant pricing by modifying the price cap system
- Receive Government Funding for the Universal Service Obligation (USO)
- Invest CSRS and FERS [pension] assets in a diversified portfolio
- Invest PSRHB [health benefits] assets in a diversified portfolio
- Change the allocation of CSRS costs to reduce the portion owed by USPS

here are some that postal workers do not support

- Adopt a new pension model
- Amend the funding of retiree health benefits
- Restructure the Postal Service Workforce
- Change the Postal Service Workers' Compensation Rules
- Explore Modifications to Collective Bargaining Rules
- Outsource the middle mile
- Outsource the retail network
- Convert door delivery points to curbside or cluster box
- Reduce delivery days
- Stop providing select USO services

NALC member? Not going to Convention?

This year, for the first time, members convinced National leadership to LIVESTREAM the whole thing!
Go to nalc.org, the Members Only portal
Mon-Thurs, Aug. 3-6, 10am-3pm; Fri Aug 7, 8am-Noon PDT