

Communities and Postal Workers United

SPRING 2026 -- No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of Mail!

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PMG STEINER SAYS POSTAL SERVICE IS BROKE

On March 17, Postmaster General David Steiner testified before a Congressional hearing that the US Postal Service would run out of money by February, 2027 without drastic changes to the status quo. His main request was to raise the debt limit from the current \$15 billion (which is maxed out) to \$30 billion. Of course, without other changes, the postal service would continue to lose money, just postponing the day of reckoning.

Most commentators point to the decline of first-class mail (by 50% since 2006), the main source of USPS income, as the main culprit in declining revenue. While this is true, the diversion of communications to the internet has also produced increasing revenue from a parcel delivery boom. The parcel delivery market is much more competitive (USPS first class mail has no competitors because it is a monopoly by law) including other delivery companies, particularly Amazon (which has recently surpassed the USPS as the main carrier of parcel volume), but also FedEx, UPS, DHL and others.

Steiner's main suggestion to reverse the decline of revenue from first-class mail is to raise the price of first-class postage, eg. from 78 cents to close to \$1. For comparison, first class postage was raised from 2 cents to 3 cents in 1932, went to 4 cents in 1958, then 5 cents in 1963. Prior to 1970, the US Post Office was taxpayer-supported and the price of a first-class stamp was 2 to 5 cents for a hundred years, since the beginning of city delivery in 1863.

Steiner also suggested adjusting the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) funding (the unfair division means USPS pays more than its share); and that the pension systems should be able to invest in stocks and bonds, not just Treasury notes.

The PMG said that the USPS could use these mechanisms to boost revenue or use other means to cut expenses, or both. Steiner said "severe actions could be taken connected to [reducing days of] delivery service, [raising] postal rates, workforce cuts, and a reduction of Post Office operations [closing post offices]. It is unlikely that Congress or the American people would tolerate these severe consequences individually or collectively." He also suggested moving to more of a non-career (lower paid, low benefit) workforce.

POSTAL UNIONS RESPOND

The response of the National Association of Letter Carriers said in part, "we will fiercely fight limiting letter carriers' workers' compensation benefits in any way or increasing usage of non-career employees in our craft as some in the hearing suggested," also citing that "lack of contract compliance costs the agency hundreds of millions of dollars."

The American Postal Workers Union had a much stronger response, presented in a webinar by President Jonathan Smith. Smith agreed with Steiner's revenue-generating proposals (double the borrowing limit, fix the CSRS funding, and invest pension/health benefit funds in stocks and bonds). Further, Smith suggested that the USPS generate further revenue and public benefit by expanding non-postal services, as provided for in the Postal Reform Act of 2022. The USPS has not acted on opportunities to contract with state, county, city and tribal governments to provide financial services, copying, fishing and hunting licenses, and other (services) to transform post offices into community hubs.

Take action to protect our public postal service:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/speak-out-protect-our-public-post-office>



NEXT GENERATION CARRIERS

"Next Generation Carriers" (NGC) is a podcast and now a movement, promoting a "Save USPS from Mismanagement" campaign as part of a push to gain a \$30 starting wage for letter carriers in their next labor agreement. The current agreement expires on May 22 and the NGC is organizing a nationwide action on May 23, advocating for a reduction in postal management by 75%, which would save billions of dollars, and for a starting wage that is a living wage in major cities.

The current ratio of management to carriers is 1 to 7. Decades ago (at the time of this photo) the ratio was 1 to 20. The NGC goal is 1 to 30.

Both New York and California have campaigns afoot to raise the minimum wage to \$30/hour. According to MIT's living wage calculator, a living wage for a single adult with no dependents in New York City is currently \$31.50 an hour.

Another national rank-and-file reform movement, Build a Fighting NALC, which emerged two years ago as part of the push for open bargaining, a contract campaign and later the Vote No battle (on the tentative labor agreement), also has been promoting the May 23 action for a \$30 starting wage.

This from the NGC website: "Postal workers from across the nation are organizing to 'Save USPS from Mis-Management' and deliver a message to our customers, the media, and our politicians that USPS isn't broke!

"From organizing informational picket lines outside our post offices before we clock into work to organizing picket lines outside of USPS H.Q. in Washington D.C...."

"While our labor unions bargain in good faith, various OIG reports through the last couple of years highlight the gross Mis-Management of USPS funds. National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) released a statement:

"40,000 post offices need to produce a savings of approximately \$225,000 per office to eliminate the \$9 billion debt."

"NAPS just needs to look into the mirror and find where they can save the money..."

The Next Generation Carriers website is <https://www.nextgenerationcarriers.com/saveusps>



Contact Your Congress Critter
Do Not Privatize the USPS—ever!
Support H.Res.70, S.Res. 147

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/do-not-privatize-the-usps>



TRUMP ORDERS FEDERAL CONTROL OF MAIL VOTING

(excerpted from the NY Times, April 1, 2026)

“President Trump on Tuesday stepped up efforts to promote his false claims of widespread voting fraud, signing an executive order of questionable constitutionality seeking to create a national list of citizens that would determine voting eligibility and restrict mail ballots...”

“It directs the Department of Homeland Security to create a “state citizenship list” based on data from citizenship and naturalization records, Social Security records and other federal databases.

“The order directs federal officials to send the list to state election officials, and orders the attorney general to prioritize prosecution of election officials who provide federal ballots to ineligible voters. It also directs the U.S. Postal Service not to transmit mail-in or absentee ballots from any individual not included on the “state citizenship list.”...

“The Constitution grants no explicit authority to the executive branch regarding elections. It grants the states broad authority to conduct elections, including the “time, place and manner,” and it dictates that Congress may pass laws overseeing elections.”

TRUMP HAS TRIED MANY TIMES TO DISRUPT MAIL VOTING

“Courts have largely blocked Mr. Trump’s previous executive order, signed last year, seeking to require documentary proof of citizenship to vote, among other changes. And in January, a federal judge blocked the administration from withholding federal election funds to states that do not alter their voting procedures in line with the president’s demands.

“Mr. Trump’s latest order attempts to harness the U.S. Postal Service to control who gets access to mail ballots.

“The states run these elections,” said Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who joined Mr. Trump in the Oval Office Tuesday. “If they want to use the U.S. Postal Service, they are going to get a code, a bar code from the U.S. Postal Service, and they are going to put that on the envelope, and we will have one envelope per vote.”

“...Mr. Trump’s announcement that the government is creating a “state citizenship list” comes as the administration has been largely stymied in its efforts to build a national voter database. The Justice Department has attempted to get the private, unredacted voter rolls from nearly every state in the country, but only about 12 states have agreed to provide the data, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

“Attempts to force at least 29 states to hand over their voter rolls through litigation have so far been unsuccessful. Some Republican-controlled states, including Utah, Oklahoma and West Virginia, have been among those that have resisted the Justice Department’s requests.

“Election officials have said that any national voter list would likely be rife with errors because each state’s voter file is updated every day, changing as voters move away, naturalize, turn 18 or die. As soon as a national list were created, it would be out of date.

“Mr. Trump has for weeks been pushing Congress to pass a bill that would impose restrictions on voting and mail-in ballots and would require states to turn over their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security for the agency to remove people flagged as noncitizens.”



NALC Branch 82 contingent in “NO KINGS” labor march, Portland, OR March 28, 2026

FUND BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, NOT WAR

(this resolution is offered as a template for postal unions)

Whereas, the AFL-CIO stated on March 6, 2026 “As the attacks by the US and Israel on Iran expand and escalate conflict across the region, the AFL-CIO calls for: An end to the conflict, de-escalation by all parties, and a commitment to peace the safety for workers and our service men and women currently on the front lines of the conflict; Strict respect for international law, the United Nations charter, and the US Constitution that calls for the people’s voice through Congress in any war authorization”, and

Whereas, the religion-based Iranian government has repressed its own people, jailing and executing activists for union rights, women’s rights, and democratic rights, but attacks from outside have caused civilian deaths and suffering, and will only make it harder for the Iranian people to attain freedom and democracy, and

Whereas, legal experts have pointed out that the very act of the military of the United States attacking Iran is a violation of the U.N. Charter, citing that there is no evidence that President Trump was acting to defend his country against an imminent threat, and

Whereas, President Trump threatened “they’re going to have no bridges, they’re going to have no power plants – we’re going to bomb them back to the Stone Ages.” and “a whole civilization will die tonight,” while international laws and a series of agreements prohibit deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, even though Russia is doing that in Ukraine, and Israel is doing that in Gaza, and

Whereas, the unprovoked war with Iran has been enormously unpopular, as it echoes the futile Iraq and Afghanistan wars, with billions spent and thousands of casualties over many years, and has quickly raised gasoline and fertilizer prices, with even Trump saying “Unfortunately, the American people would like to see us come home”, and

Whereas, the spending proposals of the Trump administration call for \$1.5 trillion in military spending, an enormous increase, while continuing cuts for human needs, both at home and overseas, with Trump stating “We’re fighting wars.... it’s not possible for us to take care of daycare, Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things”, and

Whereas, the federal budget has slashed staff and funds for services that actually help people, while funding to restore basic infrastructure is neglected, including funds that could preserve universal postal service and pay the federal government’s fair share of postal retiree costs, therefore be it

Resolved, that this body echoes the call of the AFL-CIO to end the conflict with Iran and respect international laws that protect innocent civilians, and further be it

Resolved, that this body calls for no increase in budgets for war, but instead for funding to restore and increase spending on human needs and civilian infrastructure..

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

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