

# Communities and Postal Workers United

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## LOCAL PROCLAMATIONS CELEBRATE 250TH POSTAL ANNIVERSARY

(from the [apwu.org](http://apwu.org) website)

The American Postal Workers Union Proclamation Campaign to honor the Postal Service's 250th anniversary is off to a great start! The campaign encourages APWU members to work with their local and state union officers and collaborate with local and state government bodies to pass proclamations recognizing the milestone and affirming official support for the public Postal Service.

With deep connections to every single community across the country, postal workers move mail to every home and business in America, no matter who you are or where you live. By partnering with the communities that postal workers serve, the campaign reinforces the need for a public, independent Postal Service, while celebrating its achievements of the last 250 years.

The APWU has provided local, state, and auxiliary leaders with sample proclamation letters and encourages meetings with elected representatives to build support for local resolutions. The APWU also recommends mobilizing postal workers, customers, and community members to attend government meetings and speak in favor of the proclamations.

If you need more information or would like some help getting started, visit [apwu.org/proclamations](http://apwu.org/proclamations) or email [proclamations@apwu.org](mailto:proclamations@apwu.org).

## GLOBAL POST OFFICES IN CRISIS

by National Association of Letter Carriers Research Director, Holly Feldman-Wiencek (excerpted from *Postal Record*, November 2025)

"Post offices around the world are in financial crisis and unions are hurrying to figure out how to best protect their members as governments take drastic measures to address a fundamental shift in the postal market.

"Since 2000, every post office has seen a significant decline in letter mail volumes, and thus a significant decline in the revenue stream that has traditionally funded universal service. Post offices have traditionally operated under universal service obligations (USOs), which are legal mandates that require a post office to offer a baseline level of service to everyone at affordable rates. Strong USOs are what make post offices such strong public services; they ensure equal access to delivery no matter where someone lives. Providing this service is, of course, very expensive, so governments have granted post offices monopolies over letter mail to ensure that the USO can be paid for.

"However, as letter volumes have declined due to the increase in electronic communication in the last two decades, post offices are no longer able to cover the cost of providing universal service. While the increase in parcel volumes in more recent years has helped to mitigate this crisis, there is private competition for the delivery of parcels, so post offices must compete with private companies for that business. All over the world, the loss of letter mail and the competition for parcels have left post offices struggling financially and unable to cover the cost of universal service.

"Governments and post offices are responding to this situation in a few ways: weakening their once strong USOs, privatizing their postal systems, or diversifying the products and services their post office can offer. While each response is an attempt to address the financial burden of universal service, they represent different perspectives on how to do so. Weakening USOs and privatization typically result in reductions in the quality of service for the public, while diversification typically represents an intent to improve the quality of a public service...

"Many countries, especially many in Europe, have altered their USOs in recent years, including reducing the frequency of delivery, slowing the speed of delivery, reducing the geographic area that the USO covers, and redefining which products and services are covered by the USO.

"Denmark is the most extreme example. Earlier this year, PostNord announced that it would cease all letter delivery by the end of the year

## MINNEAPOLIS LETTER CARRIERS WANT ICE OUT

(excerpted from *Minnesota Star Tribune*, Dec. 14, 2025)

"Postal workers rallied Sunday outside the Lake Street post office in south Minneapolis, calling on Immigration and Customs Enforcement to stop using postal property as a staging ground for enforcement operations. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 9 said ICE agents used the parking lots of two local post offices last week while carrying out arrests in nearby neighborhoods, raising safety concerns for workers and the public. "A couple weeks ago, ICE used the Lake Street post office parking lot here a couple times as a staging ground for their operations," said Chris Pennock, executive vice president of NALC Branch 9. "That same week, they used the Powderhorn post office parking lot to arrest somebody right in the middle of where the carriers are returning," Pennock said the presence of ICE agents created unsafe conditions for letter carriers as they finished their routes. "At the end of the day, the manager told them to get out of the way, and they threatened to put him in handcuffs," he said...

"DHS said the arrests were intended to improve public safety, a characterization that state and local officials have disputed...

"Postal workers said the demonstration was meant to show solidarity with immigrant coworkers and residents in the neighborhoods they serve, and to make clear that they do not want to be associated with immigration enforcement..."



because of persistent financial losses. Letter volume in Denmark has dropped by 90 percent since 2000, due to normal electronic substitution and to the Danish government's decision to move to an e-government model in the early 2000s, in which all official interactions with the government are done digitally rather than by mail. PostNord's red collection boxes are being removed from Danish streets and one-third of its workforce is being let go...

"Other countries have sought privatization as a solution, transferring the financial burden of universal service from the government to the private sector. While countries usually maintain regulations that determine the minimum level of service, privatization almost always reduces the quality and frequency of service while increasing prices.

"In contrast, other countries are seeking to strengthen their postal systems with new revenue from diversified sources. Unlike weakening USOs or privatization, diversification can have positive effects on postal employees and the public.

"Ghana, for example, has deliberately positioned Ghana Post as a national platform for social inclusion and has sought to add new services that fill gaps in public service throughout the country. Ghana Post has introduced government services, such as issuing passports and driver's licenses; and financial services, such as remittance of digital payments, to its post offices... These initiatives create new postal jobs and benefit the public by making services more accessible. "

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->



# POSTAL CARRIERS AS CENSUS TAKERS TO BE TESTED IN 2026

*(excerpts from the Milwaukee Independent, Dec. 14, 2025)*

“The Census Bureau plans to use U.S. postal workers as census takers in at least two locations during field tests next year for the 2030 census, which will determine political power and federal funding.

“The statistical agency said in October that it will test and assess the feasibility of using postal carriers to knock on doors and collect information about households for the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. The field tests will be conducted next year in western Texas; tribal lands in Arizona; Colorado Springs, Colorado; western North Carolina; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Huntsville, Alabama. The unpublished Federal Register notice didn’t say which locations would test postal workers as census-takers, who interview people about the race, sex, age, type of housing and relationships in their households.

“The idea of using postal workers as census takers during the U.S. head count, often described as the largest civilian mobilization in the nation, has been kicking around for some time, given the knowledge that postal workers often have of the neighborhoods where they deliver mail.

“In 2011, though, the U.S. Government Accounting Office said using postal carriers for the census at U.S. Postal Service pay wasn’t cost effective since, at the time, urban mail carriers were earning \$41 an hour compared to temporary census-taker pay of \$15 an hour. “Because of the difference in pay rates and the large number of staff hours involved, it would not be practical for mail carriers to perform census duties in lieu of census workers because of the higher costs and disruption it would cause to U.S. mail service,” the GAO report said.

## HOUSE BILL ALLOWS SWITCH TO DIGITAL FOR FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

*(excerpts from Freight Waves, Dec. 12, 2025)*

“A capital markets reform bill passed by the House ... includes a provision that would allow electronic delivery to become the default mechanism for providing certain regulatory documents to investors, further reducing the amount of physical mail handled by the financially beleaguered U.S. Postal Service. The legislation is the latest example of the federal government cutting into the Postal Service’s core business. Proponents said modernizing disclosure requirements makes the financial system more efficient, reduces waste and is more secure from theft than physical mail.

“Electronic delivery provides a more widely accessible, cost-effective, and speedy means of conveying and receiving information than paper delivery. Using electronic delivery to communicate with investors also creates opportunities for the industry to provide dynamic, real-time information rather than static data, making it easier for consumers to find information at the level of detail they prefer,” the Investment Company Institute said in a news release.

**Solidarity with the Palestinian Postal Service Workers,  
as they struggle to deliver the mail in a war zone,  
suffering occupation, apartheid and displacement.**  
Donate <https://chuffed.org/project/solidarity-with-palestinian-union-workers>



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*With changes in the mail mix, the postal service is encouraging homeowners to install larger, jumbo mail boxes*

## POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

**Thurs. Feb. 5, 3pm ET, USPS HQ in DC**

**Restore Jobs and Service! Stop ICE!**

Email comments to [BOG-Inquiries@usps.gov](mailto:BOG-Inquiries@usps.gov)

“Mass marketers and print-industry suppliers oppose the measure, saying it threatens jobs and revenue in the direct mail sector, as well as for the U.S. Postal Service.

“Many older Americans are less comfortable with technology and may prefer paper documents because they have trouble navigating digital platforms. The opt-out process for paper delivery may add complexity for seniors, Mackay Mitchell Envelope company said in a LinkedIn post. E-delivery isn’t a practical solution for households in rural areas without reliable high-speed Internet, it added.

“The measure, which has yet to be considered by the Senate, “would also have a significant detrimental impact on the U.S. Postal Service in terms of decreased revenue and volume at a time it can ill afford such a loss,” said Kathleen Siviter, executive director of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, in a letter to members...

“Paper communications remain one of the most secure channels. Requiring digital document transmission increases exposure to cyberattacks, identity theft, and data breaches, Siviter argued.

“Digital disclosure does not equal comprehension. Paper ensures critical financial information is actually seen, read, and retained — not buried in inboxes or spam folders. Digital-only systems fail during outages, disasters, or cyber events. Paper provides a necessary backup that keeps information moving when systems go down,” the letter said.

“In October, the Social Security Administration stopped sending paper checks to retired beneficiaries in response to a presidential executive order designed to modernize payment systems, save administrative costs, and reduce fraud and identity theft across the government. The SSA said the transition only affects a small group of people who have not yet switched to electronic payment methods. Less than 1% of beneficiaries currently get paper checks.

“According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, issuing a paper check costs about 50 cents, while an electronic funds transfer costs less than 15 cents. The shift could save the federal government millions of dollars annually.

“Paper checks are 16 times more likely to be lost or stolen compared to electronic payments, increasing the risk of fraud, the SSA says on its website.”

The **FEDERAL UNIONIST NETWORK** represents federal workers, 700,000 of whom were recently stripped of their union rights and tens of thousands are losing their jobs. Their fate and those of postal workers (and all workers) are intimately connected. To join the fight-back, go to <https://www.federalunionists.net/>

