

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

FALL 2024 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

USPS REVERSES CONSOLIDATION PLANS FOR EIGHT FACILITIES

[in cities where protests surged, including rallies and picket lines, town halls, press conferences, packed USPS-sponsored hearings, and union and elected officials calling out mail delay and job loss]

(excerpts from *Supply Chain Dive*, Sept. 20, 2024, Max Garland plus [comments] from editors)

"The agency will keep outgoing mail processing operations at plants in California, Florida and other states [Oklahoma, Arkansas, Maine, Nevada, New York, West Virginia, Tennessee, Vermont] as part of its proposed transportation overhaul.

The Postal Service will keep some processing operations in at least eight local plants that the agency first planned to consolidate elsewhere, according to a series of news releases in recent weeks.

Facilities in California, Florida and Tennessee are among those that will retain the work and change into Local Processing Centers, a new node in the Postal Service's network that processes destination mail and serves as a collection point for packages into the delivery network. In simpler terms, outgoing single piece mail will continue to be processed at its current location," the Postal Service said in a news release about the decision for a facility in Reno, Nevada.

"The moves mark another adjustment in the Postal Service's evolving plan to improve its financial stability by overhauling how it processes mail and packages.

"The delivery provider credited its **recently proposed transportation tweaks**, which would **slow volume coming from rural post offices**. It initially looked to transfer that volume to larger, regional facilities further away in 2025 as part of its ongoing cost-savings push, an approach that lawmakers have criticized over potential shipping delays and job losses for their constituents...

"Now, the Postal Service looks to achieve savings through a different strategy. It aims to reduce afternoon drop off and pickup activities at post offices in ZIP codes more than 50 miles away from the nearest regional processing and distribution center. Volume from rural locations may see longer transit times..." ...[see *"The Postal Service Slows Down the Mail"* - this page]



SOURCE: USPS WEBINAR (9/4/2024)

THE POSTAL SERVICE SLOWS DOWN THE MAIL AGAIN

(excerpted from *savethepostoffice.com*, 9/17/24)

"The Postal Service is planning to stop collecting the mail at the end of the day at 3/4 of the country's post offices (*see blue area on map above*). Rather than being processed overnight, the mail will sit in the back of the post office, waiting for collection the next morning, when the day's mail is dropped off.

"Under the current system, mail is transported early each morning from processing centers to 31,000 post offices, where it's distributed to PO Boxes and sent out for delivery by letter carriers. At the end of the day, in the late afternoon and early evening, the process is reversed — the outgoing mail is collected from post offices and transported to the processing centers, where it's processed overnight for dispatch the next day.

"The proposed system — it's called Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) — eliminates the afternoon collection of mail and parcels. The day's mail is instead collected the next morning, at the same time that the mail from the processing center is dropped off. It's essentially a "milk run" approach — pick up and drop off at the same stop — just as the milkman on his daily route would distribute full bottles and collect the empties, all at the same time.

"The plan does not eliminate the end-of-day collection at every post office. Instead, it applies only to those located more than 50 miles from one of the nation's 60 Regional Processing & Distribution Centers, the main hubs of the new network. The offices within 50 miles of an RPDC will continue to get the afternoon collection."

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

- Show up at a local protest (scores are being organized) on **Tuesday, October 1** — find an action near you - <https://apwu.org/day-of-action>
- Sign an action network letter to Congress, call for legislation to stop mail delays and restore service standards. <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/no-more-mail-slowdowns-restore-delivery-service-standards-now/>
- Contact your State Attorney General, ask them to sue the USPS (see over)

POSTMASTER GENERAL DEJOY SAYS WE HAVE TO RAISE PRICES, SLOW THE MAIL, CONSOLIDATE FACILITIES, AND ELIMINATE JOBS BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO SAVE THE POSTAL SERVICE —

<https://tinyurl.com/PeoplesPostalAgenda>

A People's Postal Agenda (created in 2021) focuses on innovations to address unmet needs and ensure this treasured public agency can continue to serve all Americans for generations to come.



Provide affordable financial services: USPS should do more to help meet the need for affordable, trustworthy financial services, particularly among low-income communities and families of color who now must pay predatory fees just to access their own money. In the short term, this could include low-fee ATMs, check cashing, bill-paying and expanded wire transfer services. Ultimately, USPS should provide no fee checking and savings accounts in partnership with the Federal Reserve or the Treasury, a modernized version of the postal savings system in operation until the 1960s..

Shift to a clean renewable energy economy with union labor: USPS should strive to install EV charging stations for public use at post offices and expand solar panel installation on its properties.

Make communities safer and governments smarter: Postal workers already play an informal "neighborhood watch" role. Monitors on postal vehicles could expand that role by gathering data on public safety and environmental risks, such as air quality, potholes, traffic and bridge conditions, snow and ice in winter storms, natural gas leaks, and cellular performance and coverage.

Protect our democracy and build community: Universal vote-by-mail.

Narrow the digital divide: Anchor initiatives to expand broadband access, particularly in underserved rural areas, such as offering free wi-fi in post office parking lots or lobby areas.

Protect public health: The success of the Covid test kit delivery program is just one sign of the vital role USPS can play in our nation's public health. Post offices, particularly in remote areas, could become community wellness hubs, with spaced rented out for health services or to help with Social Security and food assistance.

Strengthen our care infrastructure: USPS could play a valuable role in a comprehensive plan to address the care crisis that is putting enormous strain on families. Some other countries have more robust check-in programs to help the elderly and disabled live independently at lower cost than in nursing homes while reducing the strain on their families..

Support food security and local producers: USPS could expand on its experience with perishables to provide affordable delivery services for local food producers and people who have difficulty getting to grocery stores.

Explore additional financing options to maintain universal service: Most of the initiatives above would generate revenue while also addressing the urgent needs of 21st century America. This would build on the recently adopted Postal Service Reform Act to stabilize USPS finances. To ensure that USPS can continue to fulfill its obligation to provide affordable services to every U.S. address, we should explore additional reforms, including a shift away from the current self-financing model. Instead of requiring USPS to cover 100 percent of costs through income from services and products, Congress should consider appropriating funds to cover annual shortfalls and introducing fees on public utility bills to cover the cost of maintaining the universal service obligation.



A PEOPLE'S POSTAL AGENDA

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 1 **APWU**
DAY OF ACTION

WE WON'T BE SILENCED

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR:

PUBLIC RIGHT TO COMMENT

BETTER STAFFING

BETTER SERVICE

GOOD CONTRACT NOW!



find an action near you - <https://apwu.org/day-of-action>

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

cpwunited.com agrandalliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org npmhu.org nrlca.org
savethepostoffice.com bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService

CONTACT YOUR STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ask them to sue the USPS to pause all consolidations of mail processing, distribution, delivery and trucking because the consolidations cause mail delays that threaten vote-by-mail and discriminate against rural communities. The AGs have done it before. On August 18, 2020, a suit by thirteen Attorney's General, was critical in stopping Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's degradation of postal service in the run-up to the 2020 election.

See the list and the suit here: <https://tinyurl.com/AttysGeneral>

DESPITE THE RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

WE WON'T BE SILENCED!

Sign the petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/we-wont-be-silenced-postal-governors-must-allow-public-testimony>



POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

Thurs. Nov. 14, 1pm ET, USPS HQ in DC

Rally outside Noon, testify inside

Pause Consolidations, Restore Jobs and Service !