



Emergency Town Hall on the U.S. Postal Service & Voting in Contra Costa County

August 24, 2020

USPS Provides Vital Services

- ▶ For 55 cents, you can send a letter anywhere in the U.S.
- ▶ In 2019, the Postal Service:
 - ▶ Delivered 142.6 billion pieces of mail to 160 million addresses in the U.S.
 - ▶ Delivered 1.2 billion prescriptions, including 80% of the medications ordered for veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
 - ▶ Employed 633,108 individuals, including more than 100,000 veterans.
 - ▶ Served 70% of businesses with fewer than 10 employees.
 - ▶ Had a 90% favorability rating, making it the most popular federal agency.
- ▶ It is a vital service, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic, **for more than 18 million seniors who do not use the Internet.**

Where Are We Now?

- ▶ The President through his top mega-donor Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, is waging a campaign to sabotage the election by manipulating the Postal Service to disenfranchise voters.
- ▶ Operational and organization changes at the United States Postal Service (USPS) have resulted in delays in the mail across the country, including in rural communities, among veterans and seniors, and in blue and red states alike.
- ▶ These changes included curtailing overtime, restricting deliveries, eliminating sorting machines, and removing mailboxes:
 - ▶ The Postal Service was in the process of removing hundreds of high-speed mail-sorting machines nationwide this month.
 - ▶ This month, USPS began removing public collection boxes in parts of California, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Montana.

Where Are We Now?

- ▶ Postmaster General Louis DeJoy recently **reassigned 23 postal executives** as part of a structural overhaul of USPS.
 - ▶ The restructure also proposed a hiring freeze, early retirements, unit realignments, and regional downscaling.
- ▶ The Postal Service has warned that **voters may be disenfranchised in 46 states and in Washington, D.C.** , even if they send in their ballots by state deadlines, because of the Postmaster General's manufactured delays.
- ▶ While Postmaster General DeJoy announced he is suspending policies responsible for mail delivery delays until after the November election, **he has stated that he will not reverse what has already been done.**

Mail-in Voter Fraud is Virtually Non-Existent

Voter fraud in the United States is exceedingly rare. Over the past 20 years, approximately **250 million votes have been cast by a mail ballot nationally.** Of those votes, **0.00006%** were fraudulent. That translates to one case per state every six or seven years.

Actions Mark Has Taken to Protect USPS – Delivering for America Act

- ▶ Sponsors and **voted in favor of** the **Delivering for America Act** (H.R. 8015):
 - ▶ **Prohibits the Postal Service from making any changes to the operations or service levels** that would impede prompt, reliable, and efficient service. The prohibition would remain in effect for the duration of the coronavirus crisis or through January 2021.
 - ▶ **Reverses any changes** already implemented to the operations or policies of the Postal Service that delay mail delivery.
 - ▶ **Includes \$25 billion requested by the Postal Service** and supported by the Postal Board of Governors.
 - ▶ Requires the Postal Service to **treat all official election mail as First-Class mail.**
 - ▶ **Prohibits the removal, decommissioning, or other stoppage of mail sorting machines,** other than for routine maintenance.
 - ▶ **Prohibits the removal of mailboxes.**

Additional Actions Mark Has Taken to Protect USPS

- ▶ Participated in Oversight Committee hearing holding Postmaster General DeJoy accountable.
- ▶ Supports the **HEROES Act**, which provides \$25 billion in emergency funding to the USPS and \$3.6 billion to support nationwide vote by mail, early voting, and resources to protect poll workers.
- ▶ Signed letters to Postmaster General DeJoy expressing **concerns about the recent internal changes and delays** we have seen in USPS service and urging the **proper delivery of mail-in-ballots**.
- ▶ Signed letters to Congressional Leadership urging **strong support and funding for USPS** in future coronavirus relief packages.

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