



The

Union Mail

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Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."— Martin Luther King, Jr.

VOTE-BY-MAIL: Keep It! Protect It! Expand It!

*When democracy is under attack,
New York Metro fights back.
Take action to save Vote-by-Mail!*

President's Letter pg. 2
News pg. 3-4

We are the Democratic Process. We Must Protect Vote-by-Mail.



Joseph Martir

One of the most important responsibilities of the American Postal Workers Union is protecting the vital public service we provide to the American people. As APWU

members, we must closely monitor congressional hearings and Supreme Court decisions involving Vote-by-Mail, as these developments can have a direct impact on the Postal Service, our work, and the communities we serve.

Vote-by-Mail has become an essential part of our nation's elections. In important ways, the democratic process relies on the ballots that postal workers process. Millions of Americans, including seniors, military personnel, individuals with disabilities, and voters living far from their polling places, depend on the Postal Service to ensure their ballots are delivered securely and on time. The integrity and reliability of our work are fundamental to preserving public confidence in our democratic process.

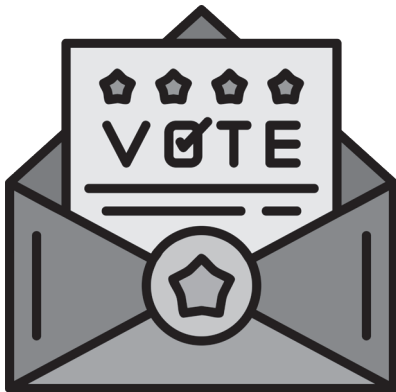
Congressional hearings may address postal funding, election security, operational standards, or proposed legislation affecting Vote-by-Mail. Likewise, Supreme Court decisions can shape how elections are administered and influence the role the Postal Service plays in safeguarding

every citizen's right to vote.

As postal workers and union members, we must remain vigilant and engaged. We must also protect America's national treasure, the United States Postal Service. For more than 250 years, the Postal Service has connected every community, supported our nation's economy, and served as a trusted institution that binds our country together. Preserving its independence, universal service mission, and ability to securely deliver the nation's mail—including election ballots—is a responsibility we all share.

Regardless of political affiliation, APWU members have a vested interest in protecting a strong, independent Postal Service capable of fulfilling its universal service obligation. We must remain informed, engaged, and prepared to advocate for policies that preserve the public's trust in the Postal Service and ensure that every ballot entrusted to us is handled with the professionalism and integrity that defines our craft.

An informed membership is a strong membership. I encourage every APWU member to follow these important developments, stay engaged with legislative updates, and continue demonstrating the commitment to excellence that has earned the Postal Service the confidence of the American people. Together, we will protect America's national treasure and preserve one of the cornerstones of our democracy for generations to come. 📬



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APWU Says NO to Unprincipled, Unworkable, Unlawful Plan!

Union Opposes USPS's Proposed Changes to Mail Balloting

On June 29, the APWU filed formal comments opposing the Postal Service's proposed changes to ballot mail for federal elections.

The proposed rule is unprincipled, unworkable, and unlawful. It would undermine public trust in the Postal Service, create unnecessary confusion around election mail, and threaten one of the most important public services that postal workers provide, which is helping Americans safely and securely cast their ballots during election season.

This proposal should be abandoned entirely. Even if only parts of the rule are adopted, the damage to public confidence and first-class mail could be significant. The rule is a dangerous step away from the valuable and vital public service mission

the Postal Service is founded on.

Postal workers know better than anyone what it takes to move the nation's mail — and how important it is that every eligible voter can trust the Postal Service to handle election mail reliably.

There is no principled reason for the Postal Service to propose restrictions on ballots. The proposed regulations are historic in the worst way. They represent the first time in the Postal Service's 251-year history that the Postal Service has created a rule to reject a national category of lawful non-profit government mail — ballots, at that — because the mail does not meet postal design requirements. And they represent the first time in the Postal Service's history that the Postal Service has created a rule to reject first-class mail

unless the mailer registers the recipients of the mail pieces with the Postal Service.

It does not make sense that Postmaster General Steiner cries to Congress that the Postal Service is broke and then imposes on the Postal Service extraordinarily expensive obligations that will cut revenue. Conforming postal practices to the proposed rule is logistically and financially impossible. The Postal Service does not have the resources to set up the internal systems to implement this proposed rulemaking. Compounding the cost of the rule is that it will reduce revenue from ballot mailings that the Postal Service turns away. Given the Postal Service's fragile financial system, moving forward in any respect with the proposed rule is a lose-lose proposition for the Postal Service.

Establishing its own ballot portal would require hiring an outside vendor to design a secure database. Even if the Postal Service uses resources from other federal agencies, retrofitting a government portal so it can be accessed by potentially thousands of election officials in real-time and also be available to postal clerks in every retail office is plainly fanciful. The cost of the resources to design, use, and maintain a database with thousands of access points to personal information of millions of Americans is extraordinary as are the consequences if the Postal Service opts to not invest heavily in securing the ballot portal. The Postal Service does not have these resources, and likely never will if it pursues this attack on Americans who vote by mail.



■ An election worker processes mail-in ballots for the June 2, 2026 California state primary election at the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center on June 5, 2026 in City of Industry, California. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

The Postal Service's introduction to the proposed rule references general provisions in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 (PRA) that give it authority to make rules and regulations about postal operations. The Postal Service fails, however, to explain how its proposed rule is lawful under the provisions of the PRA that speak to the substance of postal policies rather than the general authority to make them.

Procedurally, although the Postal Service is not covered by the Administrative Procedure Act, the Postal Service does not explain how this drastic change in mailing rules for Ballots does not have to go before the Postal Regulatory Commission for review. And once there, the Postal Service also cannot explain how these prohibitions on accepting Ballots squares with the Postal Service's statutory obligation to accept and deliver all mail to any

address in the country, especially ballots. It is a commitment written clearly in the law and affirmed by the Postal Service over the years through its actions, its settlements, and its other regulations and internal rules.

The APWU questions whether postal clerks who are instructed to turn away lawful first-class mail because it is a ballot that does not meet mail piece design rules or the addressee's name is not in the ballot portal can do so lawfully in light of their oath of office. Postal clerks' duty is to receive and process mail. All mail. At the same time, if a clerk upheld their oath of office and accepted a ballot despite it lacking the requisite mail piece design or the recipient's name not appearing in the ballot portal, the APWU is concerned that the clerk will be prosecuted under Executive Order 14399. The Postal Service should not make its own workers choose

between their oath and duty and a rule based on an unlawful directive.

Postal workers follow a simple ethos: all ballots are welcome into the postal network and are moved as expeditiously as possible. Postal workers do not inspect or reject ballots. All ballots, regardless of how they look or where they are going, should be moved through the postal network as fast as possible. The proposed rule upends this principle and would thwart the uniform and expeditious handling of Election Mail and Ballots.

Postal employees are committed to ensuring ballots continue to receive the same extraordinary measures and treatment they have for generations. We urge the Postal Service to return to its core principles and join its employees in preserving the American right to vote. The proposed rules should be withdrawn. ☐

Union Opposes Article 12 Excessing, Fights for NJ Workers

By Andrea Adleman, Editor

Work at the New Jersey International Network Distribution Center is changing. While technology is altering the postal workplace, one thing remains constant: the union is leaving no stone unturned in its defense of workers' interests.

Each worker's situation is different. Employees must decide on the course of action they feel is best. The union is helping workers make informed decisions. From our National Business Agent to our NY Metro officers and stewards, the union is negotiating with management for more information, more flexibility, more options, more alternatives, and, above all,

adherence to the collective bargaining agreement.

Workers are advised to consider the following issues.

The union is opposed to excessing; however, under Article 12, management does have the contractual right to excess employees.

Employees who voluntarily leave the building through the eReassign/21-day posting process do not have retreat rights.

If an employee volunteers for a position that requires passing a qualifying test, such as a window clerk position, and does not pass the test, management could use that as a basis to remove the employee from the USPS.

Employees who choose to wait until they are excessed will only be offered whatever positions remain after the volunteers have been placed.

The union will challenge and grieve any Article 12 violations.

"We're working as hard as we can to ensure that employees understand their rights and the applicable rules and regulations," said Director of Industrial Relations Jeff Lizardi. "As dedicated public servants, our members deserve justice. We're continuing to monitor developments, challenge management's decisions, and identify solutions to provide stable jobs for our members." ☐

RIP Bill Bachmann, Man of the People

NY Metro mourns the loss of longtime activist member William "Bill" Bachmann, who died on May 30 at the age of 81.

He was a shop steward and three-term chair of the NY Metro Election Committee. In this role, he ran union elections and ensured a fair, inclusive process.

A lifelong student of political theory, Bachmann appreciated that humankind is diverse in every way. "People are complex personalities," Bachmann told an interviewer a year before he died. "They can't be put in culturally constructed boxes like race, sex, gender, class, etc. They have within them differing tendencies, such as cooperation and competition, and love and violence."

He freely expressed his views

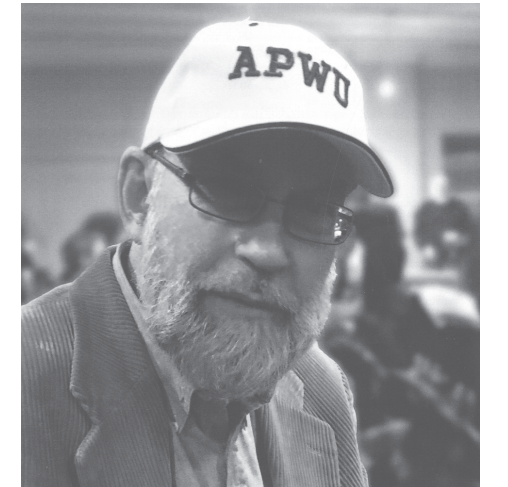
while keeping an open mind to different opinions. "I never hid the fact that I identified as an anarchist both within the union and around the neighborhood where I lived," he said. "I find that is the best way — to be honest about my political views while at the same time listening to

and working with others who don't share them."

Bachmann is survived by his wife, Corine, and many relatives in his extended and chosen family. ☐



■ Bill Bachmann (far left) at 2018 NY Metro Day of Action



Remembering Trudi Johnson

NY Metro announces the passing of Dominick V. Daniels Shop Steward Trudi Johnson. Our sister and retired New Jersey clerk passed away on July 14. Sister Johnson dedicated her life to serving others. She worked in health care and social services before entering

the Postal Service. Her friends and family might remember her as upbeat and for good reason. Music, especially house music, was one of her favorite things.

She was memorialized in a ceremony in Union, N.J., on July 25, where friends and loved ones honored her "community engagement, huge giving heart, selflessness, infectious smile, and her love for house music."

Trudi Johnson was more than a Shop Steward, she was a devoted advocate, a trusted friend, and a tireless protector of her fellow postal workers. She generously volunteered her time and energy to stand up for the rights of our members, especially on the workroom floor where her presence made a meaningful difference.

Her commitment to her fellow employees was evident in the countless hours she devoted to helping members understand

their rights, addressing their concerns, and making sure their voices were heard. She gave of herself freely, often without recognition or expectation of anything in return.

Although Trudi is no longer with us, her spirit of solidarity and service will remain with the members she represented and the union family she loved. Her voice may be silent, but the principles she stood for will continue through all of us who carry forward the work she so passionately believed in.

We mourn her passing, but we also celebrate her life, her courage, her compassion, and her unwavering commitment to her fellow workers.

Rest peacefully, Sister Trudi Johnson. Your service will never be forgotten, your contributions will never be erased, and your legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of the members you fought to protect. ☐



We Will Not Surrender the People's Post Office

The APWU National Day of Action on July 28, 2026

NY Metro members, allies, and the public rallied on July 28 to defend the Postal Service. The Manhattan protest at the Farley Post Office was part of the APWU's National Day of Action to Protect Our Public Postal Service.

"The Postal Service is not a business," said NY Metro President Joseph Martir. "It's a service. We serve everyone from big cities to rural communities. We serve all people. That's

why this is the people's post office, our national treasure. We are here today to protect it and say loud and clear that we will not surrender it."

National Business Agent Peter Coradi recalled how postal employees continued to work during the pandemic. "We didn't waver then and we aren't waver now," said Brother Coradi. "We are here to serve the public — every door, every day."

Rally speakers included postal cus-

tomers, religious leaders, and a representative of the NYC Central Labor Council.

Long Island postal workers joined the protest in solidarity, wearing "Strong Island" t-shirts to flex their union muscle.

"The public isn't just our customers, they are our friends," said Atlantic Beach clerk Dawn Mehling. "Our post office is like a small town. We know our customers by name. We say, 'Hi, Mr. Smith!' We know each other as people."



Photo: Harper Freeman/ The Chief



Photo: AP Photo/Seth Wenig



Photo: APWU Local 2286/Richard Alicea
Published in The Militant Vol. 90/No. 28, August 10, 2026



Setting the Record Straight on Postmaster General Steiner's Congressional Testimony

from APWU.org

On June 24, Postmaster General (PMG) David Steiner testified before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee about the state of the Postal Service and how he is addressing the financial challenge it faces. PMG Steiner opened the hearing with an update on the progress he has made since the hearing in March, which includes a hiring freeze, reduced transportation costs, and better on-time delivery.

During the hearing, there was a lot of discussion about the Postal Service's financial challenges, but too much of the hearing focused on a premise that is fundamentally flawed; that the USPS should be run like a private business. The Postal Service is a public service and has a universal service obligation, mandated by law, to provide reliable, affordable mail and package services to all Americans, regardless of where they live or do business, which is more than 170 million homes and businesses across the country. It is not a business whose success is measured only by profit, and comparing the Postal Service to a private business is absurd.

During the cross examination, several senators argued that the answer to the Postal Service's financial challenges is outsourcing, cutting jobs, and reducing service — including proposals to cut six-day delivery and drastically limit Vote-by-Mail. The APWU wholeheartedly disagrees with each and every one of those proposals. The Postal Service does not need to privatize its work, weaken its workforce, or abandon communities and

democracy to succeed. Instead, the Postal Service should fix the structural financial problems so that we can continue to fulfill our promise to America, providing universal service to every zip code, every community, and every household.

Therefore, we suggest three common-sense solutions, which we outlined in our May Livestream ([youtube.com/watch?v=z1VSGn2azy0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1VSGn2azy0))

Our message to the Senators is this:

- Increase the USPS's borrowing authority so the Postal Service can manage its finances more effectively;
- Update the USPS investment rules to allow a more responsible and diversified investment strategy, rather than limiting retirement assets exclusively to Treasury securities; and
- Fix the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) allocation.

The Postal Service's financial challenges are real, and so are the issues with service quality and delivery to rural America. However, the path forward is strengthening the public Postal Service and making sure it works for our communities and the workers who serve them, not cutting jobs and services that Americans rely on. Postal workers didn't create these financial challenges, and they shouldn't be asked to pay the price for them.

We will continue fighting for a strong

public Postal Service that serves every community and protects good union jobs. Post offices are at the heart of every community in America. We should work to make it the vibrant, public service that Americans know they can rely on.

Call Your Representative: Raise the Borrowing Limit for USPS

The Postmaster General says USPS could run out of money within a year. But this is a situation, not a crisis — because a common-sense solution exists. Congress created this problem, and Congress can fix it.

An immediate step Congress can take is to raise the Postal Service's borrowing limit.

This limit has been stuck at \$15 billion since 1992, when USPS expenses were half what they are today. Adjusted for inflation alone, the borrowing limit should be between \$35-40 billion. Unlike private companies, USPS cannot access traditional lines of credit. Instead, it can only borrow from the U.S. Treasury, and only up to the 1992 cap. Raising the limit would give the Postal Service the breathing room it needs to keep operating while longer-term reforms move forward.

Call the APWU Legislative Hotline at (844) 402-1001 and tell your Congressional representative to raise the Postal Service's borrowing limit from \$15 billion to \$35-40 billion. ☎

Talk Is Cheap: Safety Matters

By Jonathan Smith, APWU National President

Reprinted from the May/June 2026 American Postal Worker

The following is taken from APWU National President Jonathan Smith's statement on the recent APWU campaign "Talk Is Cheap: Safety Matters" consisting of informative articles and an APWULIVE livestream.

Let me start with something our contract makes crystal clear. Article 14 places the responsibility squarely on management to provide safe working conditions in every workplace. That is not a suggestion. That is not a goal. It is a requirement. But every single day, postal workers across this country are going to work in conditions that fall short of what our contract demands.

On our livestream in February, we heard about workers in Nevada who were exposed to an airborne chemical substance that caused burning in their eyes and throats while working. The supervisor told them to keep running the machine. They ran it for 45 more minutes while the workers' pain increased and their vision got worse. By the time the union was called, workers had lost their sight entirely. And when they tried to call 911, there was a dispute about whether management would even allow emergency services inside. Three hours of chaos followed, which should have been three minutes of emergency response.

In New Jersey, a coworker was struck by a tractor-trailer in an employee parking lot, losing her life. After that tragedy, it still took months of pressure to get temporary traffic lights installed at the crosswalks.

When I take stories like this to management, I ask them to tell me what price they are putting on a life. When they tell me they cannot afford to fix a hazard, I want you to imagine it is your mother walking across that crosswalk. I want you to imagine it is your family that gets that phone call. Because that is what we are talking about. And the APWU will no longer accept excuses dressed up as reasons.

We are not asking anymore. We are demanding. The APWU has launched our Talk is Cheap: Safety Matters campaign, and it begins with you. Every member needs to download the safety checklist at apwu.org/safety. Walk into your facility tomorrow with that checklist. Go through it item by item. When was the last time you had a fire drill? Do you know where the emergency action plan is posted? Are PS Form 1767s accessible? These are requirements.

The PS Form 1767 is your most powerful tool, but only if you use it correctly and you put your name on it. Anonymous complaints do not create accountability. You have to be willing to

stand up and be counted. I know that takes courage, especially when you fear retaliation. But let me say this plainly: retaliation for using a PS Form 1767 is prohibited. The union will back you. We will be there when it gets difficult, because solidarity is our strength, and there are more of us than there are of them.

We are also holding management accountable through the contract mechanisms we already have. Article 14 grievances work. Joint labor-management safety committees work. In New York, six local presidents came together for quarterly district safety meetings, and those meetings grew from a handful of officers to rooms with 20 managers present, including district managers, plant managers, and more. That is what collective action looks like. That is what happens when you stop going through the door alone and start going through it together.

This is just the beginning. The union works with you, not for you. We are going to give you the tools, the education, and the backing you need, but you have to get involved. Download the checklist. Fill out the PS Form 1767. Stand up with your coworkers. Demand what you are owed under Article 14. Every postal worker deserves to go to work and come home in one piece. That is not a privilege. That is your right. And together we are going to hold management accountable to that right. ☎

Continued information from APWU about PS Form 1767 and your contractual right to safe work environments on page 10





What You Can Do About Unsafe Conditions
PS FORM 1767 & YOU

Management has a legal and contractual obligation to provide a safe work environment. But we have an important role as well.

Look around your workplace. If you see something that concerns you, ask yourself: Can it hurt me? Can it make me sick? If the answer to either question is "yes," then it's unsafe.

What rights do I have?
Section 814.1 of the Employee Labor Relations Manual (ELM) says: "Employees have the right to: a. Become actively involved in the Postal Service's safety and health program and be provided a safe and healthful work environment. b. Report unsafe and unhealthful working conditions using PS Form 1767, *Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition, or Practice.*"

How do I report a hazard?
Fill out a PS Form 1767
Section 824.631 of the ELM says: "Any employee, or the representative of any employee, who believes that an unsafe or unhealthful condition exists in the workplace may do any or all of the following: a. File a report of the condition on PS Form 1767 with the immediate supervisor and request an inspection of the alleged condition..." *Remember to keep the blue copy of the form. And keep in mind, using the form is most effective if ALL employees take part.*

Where do I get PS Form 1767?
Article 14, Section 2 says: "A supply of PS Form 1767 must be readily available in the workplace..."

Can management retaliate?
No. Section 814.1.e. of the ELM states: "Employees have the right to: Participate in the safety and health program without fear of: Restraint, Interference, Coercion, Discrimination, or Reprisal."

What must my supervisor do?
Section 824.632 of the ELM says: "The immediate supervisor must promptly (within the tour of duty): a. Investigate the alleged condition. b. Initiate immediate corrective action or make appropriate recommendations. c. Record actions or recommendations on PS Form 1767. d. Forward the original 1767 and one copy to the next appropriate level of management (approving official). e. Give the employee a copy signed by the supervisor as a receipt..."

Everyone has the right to leave work in one piece.
JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SAFE JOBS!

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance May 2026	_____	\$ 1,208,064.66
Revenue Income May 2026	_____	\$ 113,891.60
Operating Expenses May 2026	_____	\$ 104,369.76
Total Net Income May 2026	_____	\$ 9,521.84
Ending Balance May 2026	_____	\$ 1,217,586.50

Beginning Balance June 2026	_____	\$ 1,217,586.50
Revenue Income June 2026	_____	\$ 120,066.91
Operating Expenses June 2026	_____	\$ 60,423.99
Total Net Income June 2026	_____	\$ 59,642.92
Ending Balance June 2026	_____	\$ 1,277,229.42

CALENDAR

*****There is no Union Meeting during July and August***

Wednesday, September 16
5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

**ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS
Members Only!**

- Download Zoom App
- Enter Meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at nymetro.org

NY METRO P.O.W.E.R.

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Monthly P.O.W.E.R. meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30pm via ZOOM. For more information, contact chairwoman Deborah Bethea at deborah.bethea@nymetro.org

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, September 23 @ 5:30pm
ZOOM Meeting ID #462-755-2390
[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]



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****Please allow 3-5 business days to verify your New York Metro membership.**





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