



Special E-Newsletter From Your Congresswoman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Eshoo", is centered below the title.

Dear friends,

This is a special e-newsletter about the U.S. Postal Service and steps I've taken to protect it.

The Postal Service is a pillar of our democracy and it is older than the country itself. The Continental Congress made Benjamin Franklin the first Postmaster General in 1775 and it remains the most popular agency in the federal government, beloved and trusted by all Americans.

Throughout American history the Postal Service has been a critical part of our nation's infrastructure, with millions of Americans receiving their Social Security and disability checks, bills, tax returns, and prescription drugs through this service. It employs approximately 100,000 veterans and on any given day, it delivers more than 425 million pieces of mail. This fall, the Postal Service will have another task that is vital to our democracy: ensuring the timely delivery of millions of absentee ballots for the general election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite its importance, the Postal Service is facing two major threats to its survival: President Trump and the Postmaster General. The pandemic has made it more difficult for the Postal Service to maintain existing service standards. In response, the bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors requested Congress to appropriate \$25 billion to shore up its operations. The President has consistently opposed these funds, and last week he made clear why: "They want \$25 billion, for the Post Office. Now, they need that money in order to make the Post Office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots. But if they don't get those two

items that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it."

The Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, a megadonor to the President's campaign, has set out to dismantle the agency he was appointed to lead. He manufactured delays in delivering the mail by reducing overtime, deprioritizing election mail, restricting the number of deliveries letter carriers can make, removed sophisticated sorting equipment, and in several states, the actual removal of mailboxes, stacking them in trucks and hauling them away.

These attacks are an assault on our democracy. After a national outcry from the American people who rely on these services, the Postmaster General announced he would halt these changes until after the election. However, the Postal Service is still facing a national emergency and Congress must act to ensure that this attempt of election theft does not stand.



On Tuesday, [I held a press conference](#) at the Hamilton Avenue Post Office in Palo Alto to call on the Trump Administration to immediately end its campaign of sabotage against the U.S. Postal Service. I was joined by Vu Tran, Executive Vice President of Union 1427 Letter Carriers; James Free, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation; and Lisa Ratner, Second Vice President and Advocacy Chair, Palo Alto League of Women Voters, to discuss the impact of the Trump Administration's campaign to cripple the Postal Service and the impacts on the upcoming elections.

California law prohibits anyone from interfering with voters lawfully exercising their right to vote or preventing an election from being fairly held. This week, I called on California Attorney

General Xavier Becerra to open a criminal investigate relative to the Postmaster General's violation of California law. You can read a copy of the letter by clicking [HERE](#).

I will return to Washington this week to vote for the *Delivering for America Act*, emergency legislation to address the sabotage of the Postal Service. The bill requires the agency to maintain the same standards of service that were in place prior to the pandemic, and it specifically prohibits:

- Any change in the nature of nationwide postal services;
- Any revision of service standards;
- Any closure of post offices or reduction in hours
- Any prohibition of overtime pay;
- Any changes that would prevent the Postal Service from meeting its mail standards; and
- Any changes that would delay mail or increase the amount of undelivered mail.

The bill includes \$25 billion in funding to ensure the Postal Service can operate fully during the pandemic and process the delivery of millions of ballots this fall. I believe the bill will pass with bipartisan support.

I've also voted for the following legislation in order to ensure the timely delivery of mail during the pandemic, particularly ballots for the general election:

- The *USPS Fairness Act*, which eliminates the requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund health benefits for future retirees, a crippling financial burden imposed on no other government agency. This mandate set the agency up for financial failure and prevents it from making investments in technology, products, and services.
- The CARES Act which provided a \$10 billion loan to the Postal Service.
- The *Heroes Act* which provides \$25 billion for the Postal Service to recoup COVID-related losses.
- H.R. 2, the *Moving Forward Act* which provides an additional \$25 billion to upgrade Postal operations and infrastructure, including \$6 billion to modernize its vehicle fleet.

Our democracy has been a beacon of light across the world. Americans have given their very lives to defend it and Americans have also given their lives to be able to vote. Now, in our day and time, we cannot allow our democracy to be hijacked by those who boast in broad daylight of their disregard of a revered institution which was placed in our Constitution by the framers. The Postal Service enjoys fullest confidence of the American people with the exception of those that wish to destroy it along with our democracy, and we will not allow this to stand.

Please pray for our fire fighters as they struggle with the tragic fires in our congressional

district. Communities on the south coast in San Mateo County and in Santa Cruz County are hit hard. Many have completely lost their homes and thousands have been evacuated. We're doing everything we can to assist with emergency services.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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