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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 4, 2026

The Honorable Amber McReynolds
Chairwoman, Board of Governors
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20260

The Honorable Derek Kan
Vice Chairman, Board of Governors
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20260

The Honorable Ronald Stroman
Governor, Board of Governors
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20260

The Honorable Daniel Tangherlini
Governor, Board of Governors
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20260

David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington D.C. 20260

Dear Chairwoman McReynolds, Vice Chairman Kan, Governor Stroman, Governor Tangherlini,
and Postmaster General Steiner:

The Postal Service's continued illegal attempts to turn itself into an election administration agency at the direction of President Trump risks disenfranchising eligible American voters and threatens the integrity of upcoming elections less than 10 weeks away. We call on you to cease these unlawful activities and immediately give Congress necessary and overdue information about your course of action.

Despite repeated warnings from Congress as well as court orders prohibiting implementation of the President's unlawful directives to regulate mail-in voting, the Postal Service continues to carry out these actions, which will undermine peoples' faith in the upcoming elections. These efforts will also corrupt the Postal Service's universal service mission and

contradict commitments the Postal Service has made to this Committee in testimony and in writing.

As we previously underscored in letters sent in April and June of this year, there is no legal authority for the President to unilaterally change election law or for the Postal Service to regulate absentee voting as required by its recently-issued final rule.¹ The Constitution is clear – the power to regulate elections falls to Congress and the states, and no federal law bestows the President or the Postal Service with the legal authority to issue this regulation.²

Nonetheless, on August 21, 2026, at the behest of President Trump, the Postal Service finalized its rule to implement the vote-by-mail executive order, to take effect immediately. Under this rule, states will be coerced into providing their absentee voter rolls to the federal government and complying with new mandatory and costly ballot standards. Additionally, under the rule, the Postal Service will now have the authority to verify and refuse to deliver certain ballots to voters if those ballots don't meet their “verification standards” — infringing on states' constitutional role in administering federal elections and threatening eligible Americans' right to vote. The Postal Service claims that it will not determine the eligibility of voters to vote by mail, but that promise rings hollow because under the final rule it is USPS that serves as the final decision maker on whether to accept and deliver ballots to voters.

In response to our previous letters, you wrote to Congress that “any issuance of a final rule would be impacted by the outcome of ongoing litigation” and that the Postal Service was “abiding by these [judicial] injunctions.”³ Furthermore, Postmaster General Steiner publicly committed before this Committee that the Postal Service would follow court orders, stating “Obviously, yes, we follow court orders.”⁴ Nevertheless, the Postal Service finalized the rule despite being subject to an active federal court order which prohibited it from “otherwise initiating or completing rulemaking to promulgate the specific regulations outlined in” President Trump's executive order.⁵ The Postal Service's actions undermine your previous commitments and demonstrate utter disregard for the rule of law. While the Supreme Court halted a different

¹ United States Postal Service. *Ballot Mail for Federal Elections*, 91 Fed. Reg. 54966 (Aug. 21, 2026) (final rule); Letter from Senators Gary Peters, Alex Padilla, Dick Durbin, Chuck Schumer, et al. to the United States Postal Service Board of Governors and Postmaster General (Apr. 20, 2026); Letter from Senators Gary Peters, Alex Padilla, Dick Durbin, Chuck Schumer, et al. to the United States Postal Service Board of Governors and Postmaster General (June 23, 2026).

² U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4; U.S. Const. Amend. XVII; *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, 570 U.S. 1, 16 (2013); *Husted v. A. Randolph Inst.*, 584 U.S. 756 (2018); 39 U.S.C. § 401 – 404.

³ Letter from David Steiner, Postmaster General & Amber McReynolds, Chairwoman of USPS Board of Governors to Ranking Member Peters (July 13, 2026).

⁴ Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, Hearing on Reforming the U.S. Postal Service's Broken Business Model, 119th Cong. (June 24, 2026).

⁵ *League of Women Voters of Massachusetts v. Trump*, D. Mass. (No. 1:26-cv-11549) (Aug. 11, 2026) (order granting preliminary injunction).

injunction on procedural grounds and litigation is ongoing, a federal judge has concluded that states and groups challenging the regulation are likely to prevail in their lawsuits and imposed a temporary restraining order on USPS which prohibits them from implementing or enforcing the final rule for the midterm elections.⁶

Alarming, HSGAC's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations recently received a whistleblower disclosure that alleges the Postal Service's new mail-in ballot processes and "verification" systems risk collapsing the absentee ballot system and disenfranchising millions of Americans.⁷ According to the disclosure, the Postal Service is allegedly building an unprecedented information technology (IT) system to support its Federal Ballot Mail Portal, which is layered upon legacy mail systems to conduct its new ballot verification processes.⁸ The disclosure describes a seriously flawed, rushed, and chaotic process to build and deploy consequential technology without any adequate testing, traditional timelines, or normal system standards.⁹ The disclosure also alleges that the Postal Service halted work on the system in June after the first court injunction but inexplicably and illegally resumed work in late July to hastily meet a September 1, 2026 deployment date. The whistleblower alleges that the Postal Service verification process creates two-points of failure to reject ballots that don't meet its standards, and that it intends to establish a zero-percent failure policy whereby USPS will reject an entire batch of absentee ballots if *any* single ballot in the batch a state intends to mail fails to match with the Federal Ballot Portal data.

Notwithstanding the major legal deficiencies with the final rule, the Postal Service's continued insistence that it can successfully build, test, train, and deploy an entirely new system for processing millions of absentee ballots – just weeks prior to the November general election – risks disrupting the smooth administration of the midterms and disenfranchising voters. As the whistleblower disclosure underscores, building a brand-new IT system for normal mail processing and authentication would ordinarily take nine months to a year – attempting to accomplish it in mere weeks for mail that permits citizens to exercise their right to vote is reckless and irresponsible.¹⁰

We reiterate our call to halt your breakneck implementation of the President's unlawful order and rescind the final rule on federal ballot mail, especially as states are finalizing their absentee ballots and are just weeks or days away from mailing them to voters.

⁶ *League of Women Voters of Massachusetts v. Trump*, D. Mass. (No. 1:26-cv-11549) (Aug. 27, 2026) (order granting temporary restraining order).

⁷ Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal to Postmaster General David Steiner (Aug 31, 2026) and accompanying whistleblower disclosure to Senator Blumenthal (Aug. 30, 2026).

⁸ *Ibid*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

Finally, we insist that you provide the Committee responses to all previous requests regarding implementation of the President's executive order, including without limitation, the following information, no later than September 11, 2026.

1. The legal authority that permits the Postal Service to regulate federal election mail as anticipated in the final rule.
2. Which executive branch leadership officials, including the Board of Governors, at the Postal Service or OMB approved the final rule and directed that it be published in the Federal Register on August 26, 2026, despite active court orders?
3. All relevant information about the operations of the Federal Mail Ballot Portal and accompanying IT, including when USPS began work on the Portal, when USPS intends to make it available to election officials, and the Portal's current operational status.
4. USPS standards for its new ballot verification processes, including its criterion for ballot rejection and how election officials and voters are intended to cure any issues.
5. The Postal Service's efforts to comply with all prior and current federal court orders and injunctions, including the current Temporary Restraining Order issued by Judge Talwani.
6. Answers to all outstanding responses to questions for the record from the June 24, 2026, oversight hearing.

Sincerely,



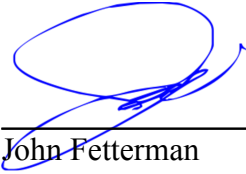
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



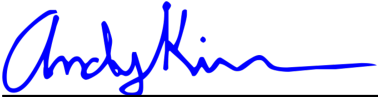
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



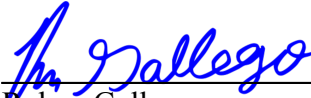
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator