

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 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:

We write regarding an alarming development related to election mail and American democracy. On March 31, President Trump issued an executive order that seeks to transform the United States Postal Service (USPS) into an election administration agency with the power to determine who can vote by mail and to establish ballot specifications.¹ The executive order is a blatant violation of the Constitution and statutes governing postal operations. We demand you follow the law and not implement this executive order.

The right to vote is the most sacred and cherished right of the American people. It is the bedrock of American democracy. The Framers of our Constitution understood this and accordingly vested the primary authority to regulate the “times, places, and *manner*” of federal elections with the states subject to alterations by statute enacted by Congress.² The Constitution similarly vests the authority to determine the eligibility of voters with the states.³ The Constitution provides no role for the President in regulating federal elections. And no statute delegates to the President any authority to regulate elections or voter eligibility either, including via USPS.

¹ Exec. Order No. 14399, 91 Fed. Reg. 17125 (Mar. 31, 2026) (www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-06601).

² U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4

³ U.S. Const. Art. I, § 2; 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).

By issuing the executive order, however, the President is attempting to unconstitutionally consolidate power to personally regulate American elections. Specifically, the order directs USPS to conduct a rulemaking to establish specifications for election mail and create and maintain a Postal Service Mail-In and Absentee Participation List. Remarkably, the order prohibits the delivery of absentee ballots from individuals that are not on the USPS absentee voter list. These directives clearly infringe on the states' and Congress' constitutional role to regulate the manner in which federal elections are held and would deny eligible voters their ability to cast a ballot. The prohibition on transmitting ballots from individuals not on the absentee voter list acts as a ban on vote-by-mail for any state unwilling to share its absentee voter lists with USPS or any voter who happens to be excluded from the list. Furthermore, under this executive order, it is the Postal Service who will have the final say about whether to transmit a voter's absentee ballots to election officials—granting USPS the ability to disenfranchise American voters. Were the Postal Service to issue such a regulation, it would be a flagrantly illegal and unconstitutional attempt to regulate federal elections and would disenfranchise voters.

As you know, the President does not possess the power to manage the operations of the Postal Service or direct USPS or the Postmaster General to enact these requirements or rules. In 1970, when Congress reorganized the Post Office Department into the now United States Postal Service, it created “an independent establishment of the executive branch,” and it bestowed the postal power on the Board of Governors of the Postal Service—not the President.⁴ This independence is a hallmark of the Postal Service and its operations.

Similarly, it is universally understood that the Postal Service does not regulate or administer American elections. As the Postal Service acknowledged in a rulemaking just last year, “the Postal Service does not administer elections, establish the rules or deadlines that govern elections, or determine whether or how election jurisdictions utilize the mail.”⁵ As the Postal Service has stated, they do not advocate for particular forms of voting and simply serve to collect and transport the mail to its destination, including election mail.⁶ This neutral and apolitical role to transmit the mail is critical to ensuring trust in the electorate and facilitating American elections, while respecting the constitutional role of the states. To prepare for the 2026 midterm elections, USPS already released its 2026 Election Mail and Political Mail Guide and issued its 2026 General Election Mail Preparedness Memorandum to every employee in January.⁷ During the 2024 general election, the Postal Service successfully delivered over 99 million ballots and over 97% were delivered in fewer than three days.⁸ The Postal Service must continue this proud and successful tradition.

⁴ 39 U.S.C. § 201; 39 U.S.C. § 202

⁵ United States Postal Service. *Postmarks and Postal Possession*, 90 Fed. Reg. 52883 (Dec. 24, 2025) (final rule).

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ United States Postal Service, *Your 2026 Election Mail and Political Mail Guide* (about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2026/pb22694/pb22694.pdf) (Jan. 22, 2026); United States Postal Service, *2026 General Election Preparedness Memorandum* (about.usps.com/what/government-services/election-mail/pdf/2026-general-election-mail-preparedness-memorandum.pdf) (Jan. 22, 2026).

⁸ United States Postal Service, *2024 Post-Election Analysis Report: Delivering the Nation's Election Mail Securely and Effectively* (Dec. 2, 2024) (about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2024/1202-usps-releases-2024-post-election-analysis-report.htm).

Accordingly, the Postal Service should not implement the President's unconstitutional executive order. Like the President, the Postal Service has no authority to regulate the manner of voting in federal elections, nor who is eligible to vote by mail in such elections. For over 250 years, the Postal Service has bound our country together with a constitutionally recognized mail service, and for 250 years, the American people have democratically elected their leaders. Any attempt to effectuate this order would violate the Constitution, break these bonds, and threaten the foundations of American democracy.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



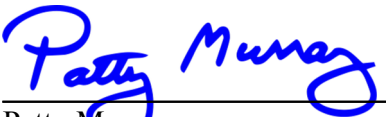
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



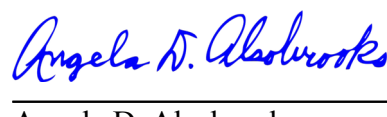
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



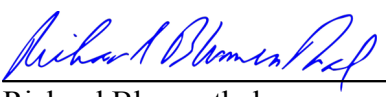
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



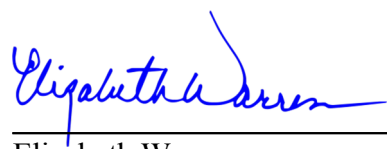
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



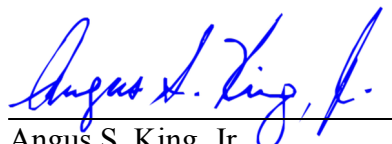
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



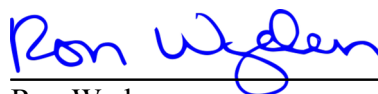
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



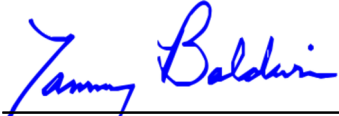
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



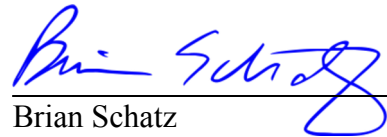
John Fetterman
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



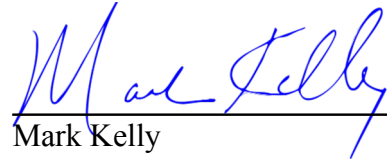
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



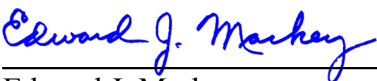
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



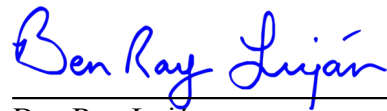
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



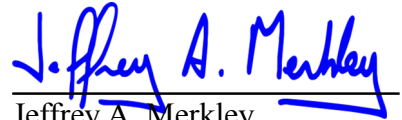
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



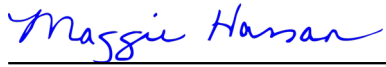
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator