

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery Full Committee Hearing:  
Nominations Hearing Opening Remarks: United States Postal Service Board of Governors  
November 14, 2024**

Today we are considering the nominations of Val Butler Demings William Zollars and Gordon Hartogensis to be Governors of the United States Postal Service and James Lake and Nicholas Miranda to be Associate Judges on the DC Superior Court.

Welcome to each of the nominees and to your friends and family members joining us today. Congratulations on your nominations and thank you all for your willingness to take on these important roles.

The United States Postal Service is an essential public service that connects communities across the nation. And the Postal Service Board of Governors plays a critical role in providing oversight and guidance to the Postal Service – ensuring it effectively serves all Americans.

For years, the Postal Service has faced significant financial and operational challenges. The historic, bipartisan *Postal Service Reform Act* passed in 2022 has been an important step toward putting the Postal Service on a sustainable path. However, more work remains to be done. The Board of Governors will be integral as the Postal Service continues to consider operational changes – which could have significant impacts on service and on Postal Service costs.

The Board must ensure that the Postal Service remains – first and foremost – a public service – that provides timely and reliable mail delivery to every household in the nation. The Board of Governors must provide sound strategic insight and oversight of management – to ensure the Postal Service continues to fulfill its public service mandate.

The Board is a bipartisan body, whose members bring diverse experience and management expertise – but who must all share a strong commitment to oversight and accountability. The Postal Service Board of Governors must also work closely with Congress to provide transparency and ensure the Postal Service delivers for the American people every day.

Congresswoman Demings, Mr. Zollars and Mr. Hartogensis, I look forward to hearing from you today.

The D.C. Superior Court functions as the state-level trial court here in the nation’s capital. The court handles some of the highest case volumes in the country and has been strained further by extended vacancies on the bench.

Every day, Judges on the Superior Court decide matters that impact the freedom – livelihoods – and safety of individuals and families across the District of Columbia. Currently 9 of the 62 seats on the court are vacant – delaying cases and placing serious burdens on current judges.

This Committee has advanced twelve Superior Court nominees this Congress, but most are still waiting to be confirmed by the full Senate. I am pleased that we have two well-qualified nominees

to the Superior Court here today. Mr. Lake and Mr. Miranda, thank you both for your service to the people of the District in Columbia and your willingness to continue to serve in this new role.

I look forward to hearing from you both today.