

The Postal Service: What now?

| | Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's vision: | A public vision: |
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| Delivery | Reduce door-to-door delivery. Push more customers into "cluster mailboxes." To cut costs, delay the mail more and more. | Defend our commitment to deliver on time to every household. Maintain the service standards that seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and millions of other Americans depend on. |
| Post offices | Reduce window hours at post offices, creating even longer lines for customers. Lease space to private companies, inviting privatization of postal work. | Expand service into the evenings. Open more windows to reduce the wait during peak hours. Add services such as free broadband access, fishing and hunting licenses, document shredding, driver's license renewal, and census support. |
| Postage | Charge higher prices for postage to Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. Then raise the rates for rural areas too. | Maintain universal service and universal rates for every corner of the U.S., including for the "last mile" of delivery. |
| Banking | Do nothing about "banking deserts" where check cashers and payday lenders extract \$100 billion a year in exorbitant fees from low-income residents. | Allow post offices to offer basic financial services such as low-cost checking and savings accounts, ATMs, and mobile banking, creating \$9 billion a year in revenue, by enacting the Postal Banking Act sponsored by Senators Gillibrand and Sanders. |
| Network | Close and consolidate post offices and mail plants, breaking up a valuable infrastructure and delivering a blow to communities. | Preserve the network of 31,000 post offices and hundreds of mail processing plants. Use them to aid emergency response in crises, as well as to deliver the mail. |
| Jobs | Cut jobs and services. Expand the lower-paid part-time workforce. Bust the postal unions. Disregard worker safety. Force mandatory overtime, speedup, and after-dark delivery—with some carriers working up to 16-hour days and going weeks without a day off. | Hire more postal workers, at full union wages and benefits, to alleviate the severe understaffing. Go back to reasonable work hours. Defend good jobs in every neighborhood. The Postal Service is the country's largest union workforce, and an important source of livable-wage jobs for Black workers (21 percent of the postal workforce), veterans (18 percent), and women (40 percent, compared to 20 percent at UPS). |
| COVID | Make no serious plan for the coronavirus surge. Keep cases and exposures secret. Don't enforce masks. Tell people their paid leave is all used up, even when they need to quarantine or take care of their kids. | Provide fully paid COVID leave for as long as it is needed. Mandate masks. Improve contact tracing. Allow those who can to work from home. Do better deep cleaning. Provide clear info when workers have been exposed or put at risk. |
| Climate | Ignore climate concerns. Keep using decrepit 30-year-old delivery vehicles that sometimes burst into flames. | Invest in a greener Postal Service, with a fleet of electric vehicles to deliver the mail. At post offices, add solar panels and electric-car charging stations. |
| Finances | Cut costs to maximize profits. Sell off resources and services piece by piece. | Focus on public service, not profit. The Postal Service is guaranteed to the people by the Constitution. Save \$5 billion per year by repealing the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which created a fake budget crunch by requiring extreme prefunding of retiree health benefits. Pass Medicare for All, alleviating the health care cost burden on the Postal Service. |
| Accountability | Answer to no one. Unilaterally dismantle sorting machines, remove mailboxes, close facilities, reduce hours, change policies, and delay the mail. | Establish a public commission to study innovations, welcome suggestions, and make recommendations. Examine creative ways to serve communities and build local resilience. |
| Trust | Sabotage the Postal Service from within. Erode the public trust. Pave the way for privatization. | Maintain confidence in the Postal Service to do what it has always done: deliver medicines, Social Security checks, ballots, business mail, and packages on time. |

For more information and to help: bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService