

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

MAJORITY (202) 225–5074
MINORITY (202) 225–6051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 1, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

We write with extreme alarm regarding a recent whistleblower disclosure that the United States Postal Service is secretly creating a ballot screening system that could prevent millions of voters across the country from receiving their mail-in ballots. This disclosure makes it abundantly clear that the actions taken by the Postal Service at President Trump's direction threaten a “foreseeable catastrophic disruption to our coming nationwide elections.”¹ The Postal Service's reckless actions undermine the foundation of our nation's democracy and violate the basic principle that all citizens have the right to have their vote counted. We demand that you immediately cease implementation of this irresponsible and illegal scheme to implement the Trump Administration's plan to control our federal elections.

The deeply troubling whistleblower disclosure outlines an unprecedented change in the way the Postal Service handles election mail in its rushed and potentially illegal implementation of President Trump's Executive Order (EO) to curb mail-in voting.² For the first time, the Postal Service has established a process in which it will determine which ballots issued by state election officials will be mailed. According to the disclosure, the Postal Service will screen and determine which ballots to send using a faulty new online system—the Postal Service Federal Mail Portal (the Portal). Not only is this an unprecedented intrusion into the administration of elections, but the whistleblower outlines that the new Portal faces significant technological issues with the result that “potentially millions of American voters may not receive their mail-in ballot this election cycle in a timely manner, or at all.”³ To be clear, any actions taken by the Postal Service

¹ *Whistleblower Claims USPS Plan for Trump's Mail Voting Order Could “Derail” Midterms*, National Public Radio (Sept. 1, 2026) (online at www.npr.org/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5950869/trump-mail-in-voting-usps).

² See Exec. Order No. 14399, 91 Fed. Reg. 17125, (Mar. 31, 2026).

³ See *Whistleblower Claims USPS Plan for Trump's Mail Voting Order Could “Derail” Midterms*, National Public Radio (Sept. 1, 2026) (online at www.npr.org/2026/09/01/nx-s1-5950869/trump-mail-in-voting-usps).

that prevent any registered voter, let alone millions, from voting are unacceptable, a violation of Americans' voting rights, and likely illegal.

In addition to the technological problems with this new Portal, the Postal Service may have violated a June 25, 2026, federal court order to stop implementation of the EO as well as an August 27, 2026, federal court order preventing the Postal Service from taking any additional steps to implement its new ballot mail rule before November 3, 2026. The whistleblower reports that around July 29, 2026, the Postal Service decided to resume work on the Portal without any legal authorization to do so and despite representations made in multiple federal court cases that the Postal Service would not resume work until "the government obtains relief from those injunctions."⁴

As made clear in a detailed July 2, 2026, letter to you from Democrats on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Committee on House Administration, the U.S. Constitution expressly gives authority to regulate elections to states—not the federal government, and certainly not to the Postal Service. Given that the Postal Service has seemingly failed to properly consider the Committee's detailed explanation of its constitutional and legal authorities, we must state again that the profoundly disturbing actions taken by the Postal Service to restrict which ballots can be sent are a direct violation of the constitutional and legal principles of state-run elections.⁵

The right of all Americans to have their votes counted is sacrosanct. The Postal Service's current actions are putting clear obstacles in the way of that right. Therefore, to protect the sanctity of our elections, and ensure that every American's vote is counted, we demand that you cease implementation of EO 14399 and withdraw the accompanying ballot mail rule, stop all work on the ballot mail IT systems under development, and retain all documents related to the EO and any state or federal court cases related to the EO or its implementation by the Postal Service. Please also answer the following questions and provide the following documents and information no later than September 8, 2026:

1. Did the Postal Service halt work to implement EO 14399 and its mail ballot rule in compliance with the June 25, 2026, and August 27, 2026, court orders?
2. The legal basis for the Postal Service restarting work to implement EO 14399 and establish the Portal despite a federal court injunction;
3. The names and positions of any and all individuals involved in the decision to continue working on the Portal despite a federal court ruling blocking implementation of EO 14399 and the Postal Service's ballot mail rule;

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Joseph D. Morelle, Committee on House Administration, et al. to Postmaster General David Steiner (July 2, 2026) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-07-02garciamorelleetaloustpsreballotmailproposedrule.pdf>).

4. All documents and communications detailing the potential impacts of the Portal or other efforts by the Postal Service to implement EO 14399 on the ability of every ballot to be properly delivered and counted;
5. All documents and communications related to the testing and technical feasibility of the Portal; and
6. All documents and communications related to the development of the Portal.

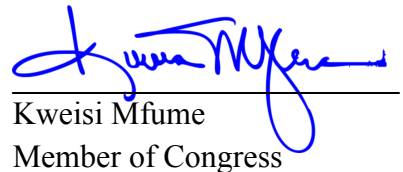
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Oversight Committee) is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Oversight Committee has legislative authority over the “Postal service generally, including transportation of the mails.”⁶ If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

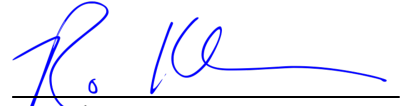


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

⁶ House Rule X, clause (1)(n)(9).



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



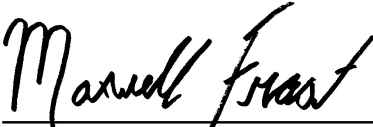
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



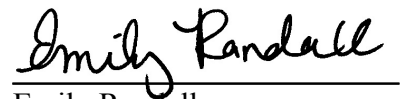
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



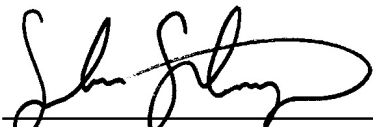
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
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Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



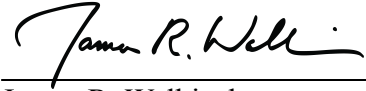
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



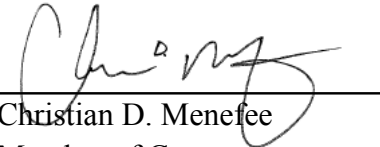
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman