

Proposed U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Rule Threatens Upcoming Elections

WHAT IS HAPPENING

On June 2, 2026, USPS [proposed a new rule](#) that would require states to send the agency names and barcodes of people who would like to receive mail-in ballots to vote in federal elections. If put into place, this regulation would allow the postal service to bypass local officials and block or delay mail-in ballots based on questionable federal citizenship data.

These changes are in response to President Trump's March 31, 2026, [Executive Order 14399](#). But, the Executive Order itself is being challenged in court, and this proposed rule may also violate a settlement agreement with the NAACP. NAACP filed a lawsuit against the USPS ([NAACP v. U.S. Postal Service](#)) in 2020 after COVID-related mail changes raised concerns that voters may not be able to reliably receive and return mail-in ballots for the presidential election. In 2021, USPS agreed to prioritize election mail delivery and maintain mail-in ballot protections through 2028.

We now have a 30-day window to comment on this proposed rule, ending on July 2, 2026 at 5pm EST. We are urging Urban League affiliates, members of the Urban League Movement and allied state and local officials to flood the federal register with statements of opposition before this critical window closes.

HOW THIS CHANGE WOULD IMPACT THE VOTING PROCESS

Mail voting is time-sensitive. If ballot delivery depends on whether states meet new data, barcode, or envelop requirements, eligible voters could be affected by administrative issues outside their control. Even short delays could cause ballots to arrive too late to be counted. This rule could effectively disenfranchise voters who rely on mail-in ballots as their primary means of voting, including seniors, people with disabilities, active military members and their families, rural residents, students, and people with limited transportation or inflexible work schedules.

Civil and voting rights advocates have a direct stake in protecting fair and accessible elections. We ask that you participate in this public comment period as part of the Urban League's broader Reclaim Your Vote campaign and commitment to Get Out the Vote. This proposed rule would allow USPS to decide who can vote by mail and when they will receive their ballots. Neither the President nor the Postal Service has a role in administering elections and should not be able to decide who can vote by mail.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

Oppose the Proposed Rule: We encourage you to [use the attached template](#) to email letters to USPS ahead of the public comment deadline: **5pm on July 2, 2026**. Let USPS leadership know that we strongly oppose barriers to the ballot. Urge your allies in state and local government to do the same.



Raise awareness: Share these changes with your Urban League clients, community members, and local election managers. Emphasize the impacts they could have on voters receiving and returning ballots on time. Share mail ballot rules, early voting options, and backup plans if a ballot is delayed.

Share Reclaim Your Vote Resources: Direct community members to the Reclaim Your Vote website (www.reclaimyourvote.org) to find state voter ID rules, check the 2026 midterm registration deadlines, and verify registration status.

[SAMPLE TEMPLATE RESPONSE]

Via Email (PCFederalRegister@usps.gov)

Date: [XX]

Director, Product Classification

U.S. Postal Service

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446

Washington, DC 20260

Re: Comment for Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Ballot Mail for Federal Elections

Dear Director:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service (USPS), Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), regarding the transmission of mail-in and absentee ballots for federal elections pursuant to its rulemaking authority.

I am writing on behalf of **[Affiliate Name]**. As one of 93 Urban League CEOs across the country, we are committed to assisting members of our community to exercise their right to vote. We are a critical resource for our clients who need assistance registering to vote and accessing the ballot box. For years we have encouraged seniors, voters with disabilities, active military members and their families, rural voters, students, and people with limited transportation or inflexible work schedules to vote by mail. This proposed rule by USPS not only undermines the trust we have built in mail-in ballots but appears designed to disenfranchise members of our community. For these reasons, we **strongly oppose** USPS's proposed rule regarding mail-in ballots for federal elections and urge USPS to rescind the proposal.

The Constitution specifically gives the power to determine election rules to Congress and the power to administer elections to the states. USPS is responsible for receiving, transmitting, and delivering the mail to everyone in the United States, including election-related mail. USPS has no other role in the administration of



elections. Under this proposal, the administration unlawfully creates new rules for election administration and USPS unlawfully takes on the role of election administrator, determining which voters are eligible to receive mail-in ballots and when they receive their ballots. This regulation also appears to violate the terms of the court-approved settlement from *NAACP v. U.S. Postal Service*, in which USPS agreed to prioritize election mail delivery and maintain protections for mail-in ballots through 2028.

Congress has passed several laws outlining how federal elections should be administered, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Each of these laws instructed state and federal agencies to make it easier for everyday Americans to exercise their right to vote. This is the first administration to attempt to use federal agencies as a tool to disenfranchise voters.

For many Americans, mail-in voting is a critical lifeline. Even small administrative disruptions can create delays and prevent eligible voters from successfully casting their ballots. We **oppose** the proposed amendment to the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual, regarding the transmission of mail-in and absentee ballots for federal elections and urge USPS to **withdraw** this proposal and refrain from taking any other steps that are contrary to the U.S. Constitution, federal law, or previous court-approved settlements.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Affiliate Name/Organization]