



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

Michael J. Hora
National Secretary-Treasurer

June Harris
Vice President
Central Region

John A. Gibson
Vice President
Eastern Region

David E. Wilkin
Vice President
Northeastern Region

Lawrence B. Sapp
Vice President
Southern Region

Don J. Sneesby
Vice President
Western Region

August 18, 2020

TO: All Local Unions

FROM: Paul Hogrogian, National President *PVH*
Michael Hora, National Secretary-Treasurer *MJH*

RE: PMG Statement on Continuation of Postal Services

After many days of non-stop media and congressional attention on cutbacks at the Postal Service, and just days before testifying before the key Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over postal issues, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has just issued a responsive statement concerning the continuation of postal services.

First, the statement narrowly focuses on all election-related mail that will be processed and delivered by the Postal Service during the coming days, making clear that the USPS and all of its dedicated employees are prepared to deal with any increased volume and meet all service standards during the coming months until this November's elections.

Second, the statement announces the expansion of the ongoing task force on election mail, to include the leadership of all postal unions, including the NPMHU, to continue its work with state and local election officials across the country. This task force will ensure the coordination of state and local election mail with the requirements of mail processing and delivery and postal rules and regulations.

Finally, the PMG made clear that, from now until the November elections:

- Retail hours will not change;
- Mail processing equipment and collection boxes will remain where they are;
- No mail processing facilities will be closed;
- Overtime will continue to be approved as needed; and
- Longstanding operation initiatives that may have been in place prior to his selection as PMG will be suspended.

Ominously, the PMG also states that he “came to the Postal Service to make changes [and] significant reforms are essential.” But work on those matters “will commence after



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

Michael J. Hora
National Secretary-Treasurer

June Harris
Vice President
Central Region

John A. Gibson
Vice President
Eastern Region

David E. Wilkin
Vice President
Northeastern Region

Lawrence B. Sapp
Vice President
Southern Region

Don J. Sneesby
Vice President
Western Region

the election.” We therefore are on notice that the post-election period will be challenging and stressful (and not simply because of the usual surge of holiday volume), with the PMG essentially announcing that “reform” efforts will continue at that time. The issues discussed publicly during the past few weeks, therefore, have not been resolved, but rather have only been delayed beyond the November 2020 elections.

Thus, the full resources of the NPMHU National Office, all of its Regional representatives, and certainly its Local Unions and representatives must continue to coordinate our efforts to preserve USPS operations, protect jobs, and maintain the great service that the American public has come to expect. We urge the Locals to continue to monitor and report on any changes in mail processing or transportation operations and/or equipment that may delay or otherwise adversely affect mail service and/or violate our contractual agreements with postal management.

Attached is the full statement issued by the PMG. Please disseminate this memorandum and its attachment as you deem appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact the National Office should you have any questions.

cc: National Executive Board
National/Regional CAD
Katie Maddocks, Legislative & Political Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 18, 2020

Contact: David Partenheimer
david.a.partenheimer@usps.gov
usps.com/news



Postmaster General Louis DeJoy Statement

WASHINGTON, DC — Postmaster General Louis DeJoy issued the following statement today:

“The United States Postal Service will play a critical role this year in delivering election mail for millions of voters across the country. There has been a lot of discussion recently about whether the Postal Service is ready, willing and able to meet this challenge.

I want to make a few things clear:

The Postal Service is ready today to handle whatever volume of election mail it receives this fall. Even with the challenges of keeping our employees and customers safe and healthy as they operate amid a pandemic, we will deliver the nation’s election mail on time and within our well-established service standards. The American public should know that this is our number one priority between now and election day. The 630,000 dedicated women and men of the Postal Service are committed, ready and proud to meet this sacred duty.

I am announcing today the expansion of our current leadership taskforce on election mail to enhance our ongoing work and partnership with state and local election officials in jurisdictions throughout the country. Leaders of our postal unions and management associations have committed to joining this taskforce to ensure strong coordination throughout our organization. Because of the unprecedented demands of the 2020 election, this taskforce will help ensure that election officials and voters are well informed and fully supported by the Postal Service.

I came to the Postal Service to make changes to secure the success of this organization and its long-term sustainability. I believe significant reforms are essential to that objective, and work toward those reforms will commence after the election. In the meantime, there are some longstanding operational initiatives — efforts that predate my arrival at the Postal Service — that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a devastating pandemic. To avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded.

I want to assure all Americans of the following:

- Retail hours at Post Offices will not change.
- Mail processing equipment and blue collection boxes will remain where they are.
- No mail processing facilities will be closed.
- And we reassert that overtime has, and will continue to be, approved as needed.

In addition, effective Oct. 1, we will engage standby resources in all areas of our operations,

including transportation, to satisfy any unforeseen demand.

I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of all the men and women of the Postal Service, and the trust they earn from the American public every day, especially as we continue to contend with the impacts of COVID-19. As we move forward, they will have the full support of our organization throughout the election.”

###

Please Note: For U.S. Postal Service media resources, including broadcast-quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the [USPS Newsroom](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Subscribe to the [USPS YouTube channel](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and enjoy our [Postal Posts blog](#). For more information about the Postal Service, visit [usps.com](#) and [facts.usps.com](#)