

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

We write to condemn the unconstitutional and unworkable Executive Order 14399 that attempts to pull the federal government into decisions that belong to states and Congress, not the President. Any effort to condition the handling or delivery of election mail on federal mandates raises serious constitutional alarms and risks undermining the integrity of our elections. The United States Postal Service (USPS) must reject President Donald Trump's efforts to control or otherwise dictate the terms of our elections.

Americans have voted by mail since the Civil War, allowing servicemembers to participate in our elections while deployed. In every generation since, voters across the country have relied on the USPS to cast their ballots. Vote-by-mail is not new or experimental, but a trusted part of our democracy. Rhode Island has a secure, transparent, and trusted vote-by-mail system. State and local election officials set rules governing ballot access, verification, and counting. USPS plays an essential role in that system by ensuring ballots are delivered reliably and without political interference.

The Executive Order would disrupt that balance by inserting an unconstitutional and unworkable federal role in determining voter eligibility and tying that determination to the movement of ballots through the mail. Article 1, Section 4 is clear that the authority over the "Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections" belongs to the states, with Congress as the federal check, not the executive branch. The Executive Order relies on federal datasets not designed for election administration. No system can fully or accurately capture all eligible voters, creating a real risk that eligible Rhode Islanders could be wrongly excluded. The Order's reliance on the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program is particularly alarming, given that it was designed for benefits verification and has documented limitations that can produce inaccurate results¹. The Executive Order also places USPS in an inappropriate role beyond its function as a neutral mail carrier by involving it in ballot-related procedures set by federal directive rather than state election officials.

The Executive Order places USPS in the untenable position of acting on determinations by the Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration in a manner that it is neither equipped nor authorized to perform. USPS acknowledged the limits of its authority, making clear in its own rulemaking that the "*Postal Service does not administer elections, establish the rules or deadlines that govern elections, or determine whether or how election jurisdictions utilize the mail or incorporate our postmark into their rules*".² The role of USPS is straightforward: to accept, process, transport, and deliver mail in accordance with federal law, including vote-by-mail when states and voters choose to rely on it. Any attempt to impose additional functions like evaluating voter eligibility or altering how ballots are handled based on federal directives would conflict with USPS's established role and risk interfering with state election systems and voter access.

¹ <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/02/13/save-voter-citizenship-tool-mistakes-confusion/>

² <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/24/2025-20740/postmarks-and-postal-possession>

As Rhode Island and states around the country prepare to administer the 2026 midterm elections, President Trump is working around the clock to turn our elections into a disorganized, partisan spectacle. A federal court rightfully rejected recent efforts to access Rhode Island’s voter data by calling it a “fishing expedition³.” President Trump’s voter suppression order is another step in a long line of actions designed to spur chaos, distrust our elections, and diminish public confidence in our election systems when they depend on stability and trust.

Given the serious constitutional and operational issues at stake, we call on USPS to:

1. Refuse to implement Executive Order 14399;
2. Publicly reject this unconstitutional order and affirm the independence and impartiality of the USPS;
3. Submit a report to Congress detailing how USPS will ensure the timely delivery of mail ballots for American voters.

USPS has long been central to Americans’ ability to participate in our democracy. We look forward to working with you to preserve that role free from political interference. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



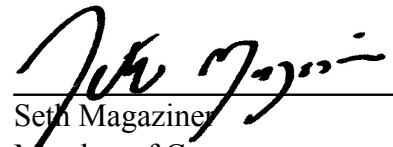
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

³ <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.ri.60988/gov.uscourts.ri.60988.51.0.pdf>