



What They Are Saying

Congress and the Trump Administration Need to Grant Emergency USPS Financial Relief to Protect Consumers & Businesses

[New York Times Editorial Board](#): “The Postal Service cannot be allowed to crumble in the midst of a national emergency. Though organized as a self-sustaining quasi-governmental enterprise, run without taxpayer funding, it is not just another business. Even in an increasingly wired world, the agency’s mandate of “universal service” provides a lifeline to remote areas. As this pandemic rages, its 600,000-plus employees are working to ensure that Americans receive their prescriptions and protective equipment and other essential items, no matter where they live.”

[Sean Moran, Breitbart](#): “The USPS has roughly 496,934 career employees and serves as one of the largest employers of veterans. The Postal Service employs more than 97,000 military veterans. On its employment process page, employment requirements for the USPS include United States citizens, permanent residents, or citizens of American territories. This means that illegal immigrants cannot be employees of the Postal Services. Ninety-two percent of voters favor temporary funding for the Postal Service, including 90 percent of Republicans, 83 percent of independents, 90 percent of rural voters, 92 percent of non-college white voters, and 94 percent of retirees.”

[Richard John, Washington Post](#): “The Postal Service remains the most admired federal government institution — recent polls put its popularity around 90 percent. It provides good jobs at a living wage to 500,000 people, including a disproportionate number of veterans and African Americans. Public figures in a democracy should not be so dismissive of the public will or of an institution that has for so long served the country well. Nor should they forget the Postal Service’s original mission or the wisdom of the Founders. A crisis is a terrible thing to waste. If anything, now is time to re-envision the long-successful mission of the post office for a new age.”

[Addison Del Mastro, The American Conservative](#): “It’s ironic that the politicians claiming the mantle of forgotten Americans and rural living are the same ones who seem poised to deliver a coup de grace to already struggling post offices out in America’s vast expanses. In small towns—often just an intersection with a church, gas station, restaurant, and post office—the loss of the post office generally means the loss of the zip code as well, which can spell the de facto end of a place’s existence.”

[Catherine Kim, Vox](#): “The USPS is crucial to rural America because it is obligated by law to serve all postal addresses with no differences in the fees it charges. As required by congressional mandate, the agency ensures that all Americans are connected. The USPS was never really meant to operate as a business but as a public service, which is why it’s been able to keep its prices lower than private companies. Businesses like FedEx and UPS don’t build offices in remote rural areas, like deep in Wyoming or in the mountains of Colorado, because it’s simply not profitable. They often rely on the Post Office for last-mile delivery; the agency delivers mail for them from major transportation hubs to the final delivery destination, often in secluded areas.”

[Chicago Sun Times Editorial Board](#): "If ever there were an entity that deserves financial relief from the coronavirus, it's the U.S. Postal Service. We fail to understand President Donald Trump and Congress' astonishingly shortsighted move last month to exclude the financially troubled postal service from the nation's \$2.2 trillion coronavirus bailout. The postal service is on the front line in the COVID-19 battle, processing and delivering 500,000 pieces of mail daily, including the prescription medicines, lab tests and medical supplies needed during the pandemic...Now is no time to leave the postal service empty-handed."

[Jacob Bogage, Washington Post](#): "Without the loan, which awaits approval by the Treasury Department, the Postal Service would be 'financially illiquid' by Sept. 30, according to estimates provided to lawmakers. Advocates for the Postal Service worry the agency is in a vulnerable position...The Postal Service projects it will lose \$2 billion each month through the coronavirus recession while postal workers maintain the nationwide service of delivering essential mail and parcels, such as prescriptions, food and household necessities."

[John McHugh, Package Coalition](#): "The reliable delivery of mail and packages is a critical element of our nation's economic infrastructure, allowing seniors to continue to receive their social security checks, prescription medicines and vitamins, as well as enabling families spread out across state lines to stay connected and e-commerce companies to still deliver goods to consumers. Since many non-essential businesses are closed and consumers are increasingly moving their purchasing power online, e-commerce continues to play a critical role in the economy."

[Peter Roff, Town Hall Contributor](#): "People can order everything from prescriptions to crackers to toilet paper (when they can find it) – from online retailers who, most of the time, can ship it right to their front door. Eventually, those shipments may also include test kits and vaccines. The American supply chain is an amazing, resilient thing. What most don't know, however, is how dependent they are on the United States Postal Service for all that. There are other shippers, but only the USPS is required to provide delivery to every front door in America. For many, especially those living in remote and rural areas, it's a lifeline."

[Paul Waldman, The American Prospect](#): "Libertarians say 'FedEx and UPS make profits, so why can't the Postal Service?' but they fail to explain that those companies make profits by charging you not 55 cents, but around \$25 to send a letter coast-to-coast. And unlike the USPS, FedEx and UPS do not have a universal service requirement to deliver to all addresses throughout the country; if it isn't profitable, the private shippers won't deliver there. So what does FedEx do if you ask them to send a package to a remote address in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan? They take your money, bring the package to the post office, have the USPS deliver it at a much lower rate, and pocket the difference."

[Addison del Mastro, The American Conservative](#): "But while many large chains are pulling out of rural America and poor urban America, leaving people with long, lonely drives for groceries or complicated trips on public transit, the USPS, for now, remains nearly everywhere. If America were the world, the sun would never set on the Post Office."

[Senator Elizabeth Warren](#): "Our postal service is on the verge of collapse. I'm calling on Congress to act swiftly to shore up USPS so that everyone can continue to receive essential medicines and supplies, and as many Americans as possible can vote from home."

[Postmaster General Megan Brennan, USPS](#): "As Congress and the Administration take steps to support businesses and industries around the country, it is imperative that they also take action to shore up the finances of the Postal Service, and enable us to continue to fulfill our indispensable role during the pandemic, and to play an effective role in the nation's economic recovery. We are at a critical juncture in the life of the Postal Service. At a time when America needs the Postal Service more than ever, the reason we are so needed is having a devastating effect on our business."

[Walla Walla Union-Bulletin Editorial Board](#): “The way in which this nation communicates (via email, text and social media) has reduced the number of letters sent via the postal service while private package carriers are able to make profits because they are not required to serve the entire nation — from the largest cities to the smallest rural outposts. So do we, as a nation, want a national mail service that must serve all? Or do we want to let the service essentially stop operating? Or do we let it serve only the areas of the country where it’s profitable?”

[Robert D. Atkinson, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation](#): “USPS is not getting taken to the proverbial cleaners and is in fact making a significant profit on packages, which plays a key role in helping offset USPS’s chronic financial losses from its declining traditional mail business. In fact, it is clear that USPS is abiding by the provisions in its governing statute. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), whose job, among other things, is to regulate the prices USPS can charge for products that compete with the private sector (e.g., packages), has determined USPS is abiding by the law and not using its mail monopoly to unfairly subsidize package delivery.”

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette & Toledo Blade Editorial Board](#): “Whereas private carriers, such as FedEx or UPS, are under no obligation to run unprofitable delivery services for rural customers, USPS provides for all corners of the country. Profitable big-city routes subsidize less lucrative — but essential — deliveries to rural areas.”

[Nicholas Fandos and Jim Tankersley, New York Times](#): “Some lawmakers, postal union representatives and others who rely on the service now fear that the Trump administration is trying to use the current crisis to achieve conservatives’ longstanding goal of nudging the mail service toward privatization — either by setting highly prescriptive loan terms or by essentially forcing it into bankruptcy. That would aid commercial competitors like FedEx and UPS.”

[Lincoln Journal Star Editorial Board](#): “Privatization isn’t the answer. It would only hurt rural America, where service would be more expensive or less dependable as the business model evolved to something with a bigger profit margin. The Postal Service has already made deep cuts and may need more. It will have to innovate to stay relevant and profitable. But it doesn’t have to be a cash cow. It just needs to be solvent ... and to serve all parts of this nation.”

[Representative Gerald E. Connolly](#): “The Postal Service is fighting for its survival, putting in jeopardy the careers and paychecks of its 650,000 employees—as well as the more than \$1.7 trillion mailing industry that employs more than 7.5 million people. We cannot allow the Postal Service to collapse. To do so would deepen our nation’s economic crisis and eliminate an important lifeline for individuals who rely on the Postal Service’s 1 billion deliveries of lifesaving prescription deliveries and eviscerate the very infrastructure we need to administer the upcoming elections.”

[San Antonio Express News Editorial Board](#): “The Postal Service connects rural and elderly Americans who aren’t online. It’s essential to the dissemination of information — such as the millions of postcards with coronavirus guidelines sent by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — and it’s essential to our democracy in facilitating mail-in and absentee balloting. A 2019 Gallup poll found USPS is the most popular federal agency, with 74 percent saying it’s excellent or good. Through rain, sleet, snow and, now, pandemic, the postal service delivers and must be given the funding to continue delivering to its appointed rounds.”

[Edward Hudgins, The Heartland Institute](#): “Treasury might now tell USPS that if it wants to tap its \$10 billion credit line, it must increase prices and reduce service. This is a terrible idea from every perspective. To begin with, those higher rates ultimately would be foisted on Americans ordering online at a time when unemployment is skyrocketing and paychecks are disappearing. This will certainly stir up anger. Further, Americans most affected would be those in remote

and rural areas where USPS is the only affordable alternative. Many merchants in these areas, that also rely more on USPS, now can only ship items purchased online because their businesses are closed to walk-in customers.”

[Senator Bernie Sanders](#): “Now, more than ever, we need a strong and vibrant postal system to deliver mail 6-days a week. Congress must act now to save it.”

[Devin Leonard, Bloomberg](#): “The bitter irony is that just when the Postal Service is again proving crucial, its future has never seemed more tenuous. Even with a rise in package deliveries, the economic downturn is devastating the USPS. In a letter on March 24 to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House members Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) said the USPS might run out of cash by June and urged him to include \$25 billion in aid in the congressional stimulus bill that ultimately provided \$2.2 trillion in relief.”

[Laura Behrens Wu, Shippo](#): “And while each and every business is unique with different products, customers operations and strategies, they all need to ship...Amid this crisis, we all need the USPS and its vital services now more than ever. In a world with a diminished or dismantled USPS, it won't be Amazon, other major enterprises, or even Shippo that suffer. If we let the USPS die, we'll be killing small businesses along with it...The USPS gives businesses across the country, regardless of size, location or financial resources, the ability to reach their customers.”

<https://news.nd.edu/news/postal-service-losing-money-because-of-congressional-mandate-not-low-prices-expert-says/>