



Legislative Update October/November 2020

Legislative Director
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I had originally planned on doing an in-depth report on our new PMG Louis DeJoy. But let's be honest, there has already been so much reporting done on him, his finances, and the many investigations into his investments, etc. that it would just be a repeat of what we already have been made aware of. But there is not a lack of information to share with you.

As many of you already know when the Covid-19 Pandemic first hit the United States and the Cares Act was in the process of being drafted the USPS Board of Governors had requested \$75 billion in relief. \$25 billion in emergency appropriations, a \$25 billion Line of Credit, and \$25 billion for shovel-ready projects to include the modernization of our aging vehicle fleet and facilities. However, in order to get the much-needed Cares Act signed into law by the President, compromises had to be made, the Postal Service ended up with a \$10 billion line of credit only.

Then came the Heroes Act – H.R.6800. This Bill was introduced to the House on 5/12/2020 and passed the House on 5/15/2020. It was proposed that the Postal Service would receive \$25 billion to compensate for lost revenue due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. It also included that employees of the USPS should receive an additional \$13 an hour for all hours worked retroactive to January 27, 2020 and continue for an additional 60 days after the Covid-19 Pandemic ends. As with so many other bills this one has sat in the Senate without any actions being taken.

An Updated Heroes Act – H.R.8406 has been introduced and passed in the House on October 1, 2020. Again, compromises had to be made, in this bill it is proposed that the USPS receive a direct payment of \$15 billion and clarifies the terms of the original Cares Act \$10 billion line of credit. Alas as reported on the news outlets the President has called off all negotiations with the House on this Bill. Unless he has a change of heart it sits in limbo. Of course, if it was to pass in both the House and the Senate with a 2/3 majority, the President would not be able to veto it.

On July 2, 2020 the Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act – S.4174 was introduced to the Senate by Susan Collins (R-ME) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA). This is a stand-alone bill that would provide \$25 billion to the USPS. On August 28, 2020 Anthony Gonzales (R-OH) introduced a duplicate bill to the House. H.R.8123.

We aren't done yet. So many of our National Representatives and Senators are continuously working hard to protect the Postal Service from what the current administration would like to see happen, please remember to thank them.

On August 22, 2020 the Delivering for America Act H.R.8015 was passed in the House. This bill basically protects the Postal Service from any changes or revisions that might be made that would interfere with the service standards during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Passed House (08/22/2020)

Delivering for America Act

This bill prohibits the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from making changes to operations or levels of service from those that were in effect on January 1, 2020, establishes requirements for the processing of election mail, and provides additional funding for the Postal Service Fund.

(Sec. 2) Specifically, the USPS may not, during the period beginning on enactment of this bill and ending on the last day of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency or January 31, 2021, whichever is later, implement or approve any change to the operations or the level of service that would reduce service performance or impede prompt, reliable, and efficient services.

In response to a questionnaire from the National Association of Postal Supervisors, Democratic Candidate Former Vice President Joe Biden voiced his support of the Postal Service. As reported, his support includes the elimination of the Pre-Funding Mandate and emergency relief from the Covid-19 Pandemic. The current sitting President Donald Trump declined to respond.

<https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/biden-pledges-support-for-u.s.-postal-service>

On August 28th eight of our Representatives sent PMG DeJoy a letter expressing some of their concerns, I encourage you to read this as well.

https://jayapal.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Mail-Sorting-Machines_WA-Delegation.pdf

These are such tumultuous times politically; I honestly can't remember any election ever being this divisive. Please remember that if you have friends or family that are sitting on the other side of the fence from you right now, they are still the ones you loved before all of this, and hopefully will still love after. Don't let politics separate you, remember one of the great things we enjoy in this country is our freedoms and that includes the freedom of having our own opinion.

No matter how you decide to cast your vote I sincerely hope you do so, educated. I have included a few web pages where you can get more information. Check to see how your Representatives have voted on the issues that are important to you. But most of all don't be afraid that mail in voting is going to be a problem here in the State of Washington, we are good at it.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill>

Respectfully submitted

Lorrie Crow

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Fun Fact: For most of the country's history, the Postmaster General was in line for the succession of the Presidency. The position was removed from the line of succession in

1971. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-line-of-succession-to-the-u-s-presidency.html>