

## A People's Postal Agenda White Paper for Discussion Summary

The U.S. Postal Service was created nearly 250 years ago to help bind people together into one unified nation. Since its founding, the Postal Service has continually reinvented itself in response to changes in technology and social needs. Once again, it's time to re-imagine how this public service can innovate to meet today's challenges. Instead of job and service cuts or privatization, we need a People's Postal Agenda that leverages our nation's extensive postal assets to address unmet needs and sustain this vital service for generations to come.

1. **Provide affordable financial services:** USPS should help meet the need for affordable, trustworthy financial services, particularly among low-income communities and families of color who now must rely on predatory financial firms.
2. **Shift to a clean renewable energy economy:** USPS should take actions to drive a just transition, including replacing its delivery fleet with electric vehicles, install charging stations at post offices, and expanding solar panel installation on its properties.
3. **Make communities safer and governments smarter:** Postal workers already play an informal "neighborhood watch" role. Monitors on postal vehicles could expand that role by gathering data on public safety and environmental risks, from potholes to pollution.
4. **Strengthen our care infrastructure:** USPS could expand their alert service to enlist postal workers in a check-in system that makes it easier for seniors and the disabled to live independently and supports their families and caregivers.
5. **Protect our democracy:** Allowing all Americans to mail in their election ballots would help counter racist voter suppression and increase participation, particularly among low-income, disabled, older, and rural voters who face challenges getting to the polls.
6. **Narrow the digital divide:** USPS should anchor an initiative to expand broadband access, particularly in underserved rural areas.
7. **Support good jobs:** All postal workers should have decent pay and benefits and the right to bargain collectively. The Postal Service contributes to local economies and anchors a mailing industry that employs millions of Americans.
8. **Protect public health:** The door-to-door postal network could be leveraged even more strategically in the face of future crises, while post offices could become community wellness hubs.
9. **Keep deliveries affordable for small businesses and consumers:** During the pandemic, Americans have become even more reliant on e-commerce. USPS must continue to provide universal, affordable service for everyone, no matter where they live.
10. **Support food security and local producers:** USPS could expand on its experience with perishables to provide affordable delivery services for local food producers and people who have difficulty getting to grocery stores.