



News from Washington

House subcommittee holds hearing on financial future of the Postal Service

On March 17, the House Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing titled “Oversight of the U.S. Postal Service: The Financial Future Under Postmaster General Steiner.”

The subcommittee called Postmaster General David Steiner and David Marroni, director of physical infrastructure at the Government Accountability Office, to testify. Since Congress oversees the Postal Service, it is customary for the postmaster general to be called to testify. This was Steiner’s first opportunity since assuming the position last summer to lay out his vision for the agency before the subcommittee.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Pete Sessions (R-TX) acknowledged that addressing the agency’s financial situation was critical.

Ranking Member Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) recognized the recent threats facing the Postal Service, including President Trump threatening to put the agency under the Department of Commerce and fire the USPS Board of Governors (BOG) last year. “The last thing we want is a privatized system,” he said. He also recognized postal employees’ dedication and emphasized that no postal employee should ever fear for their safety while at work.

In his opening statement, Steiner said that if the “status quo” continues, the Postal Service will run out of cash in 12 months. He referenced declining mail volume, the agency’s unfair Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pension obligations, USPS’s frozen borrowing authority that has not been lifted in decades, the Postal Service being prohibited from responsibly investing its retiree and health pension funds, and USPS not control-

ling its workers’ compensation claims for the current financial situation. He called on Congress to act now by raising the borrowing authority. “One easy action—increasing our borrowing authority—buys us time. Time that we can use to best determine what the Postal Service should do to best serve the American public,” he said.

First, he told the subcommittee that if nothing was done to financially help the Postal Service, service cuts would be inevitable. While NALC will continue to lead efforts to urge Congress and the administration to make necessary financial fixes, we will never tolerate or accept service cuts. Service cuts would drastically harm letter carriers, customers, and the entire economy.

Following the hearing, NALC submitted comments to the record to the subcommittee. In his comments, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe reiterated that NALC supports and has advocated for several of these commonsense financial solutions for years. However, Steiner made suggestions that NALC fully opposes and will not accept, and “Service cuts are unacceptable under any circumstance,” Renfroe wrote.

Along with the harmful threat of service cuts, Steiner also suggested modifications on federal workers’ compensation for postal employees.

In NALC’s comments, Renfroe fully opposed this request. “A recent OIG report found that the Postal Service spent more than \$800 million on grievances in a three-year period. Giving an agency that struggles to uphold the basic provisions of a collective-bargaining agreement sole control over something as critical as workers’ compensation claims is unacceptable, irresponsible and disrespectful to the workforce. The Postal Service can-



Postmaster General David Steiner testifies before a House subcommittee.

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President Renfroe briefs the House postal caucus.



not be given an opportunity to use this as an out to fix its financial problems. Any attempts to reduce costs by harming the dedicated public servants who provide this service will not only harm employees but ultimately impact the level of service for Americans,” Renfroe said.

While the hearing centered on the Postal Service’s finances, the undertones of potential threats were clear. Even the mention of service cuts or changes to workers’ compensation benefits are major red flags that cannot be ignored.

“We’ll keep fighting like hell for a secure future for the Postal Service,” Renfroe said in a statement following the hearing. “But we’ll fight even harder against those who push any changes that would diminish the critical service we provide or harm our dedicated, hardworking members,” he said.

House postal caucus briefed on pressing issues

On March 5, prior to Steiner’s testimony, President Renfroe and other

postal union and association leaders briefed the House postal caucus on the most pressing issues facing letter carriers and all postal employees.

President Renfroe addressed the unprecedented crimes and assaults letter carriers continue to face and urged the caucus to advance the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act (H.R. 1065).

He also explained necessary changes needed to improve the agency’s finances. These include a new investment strategy for USPS retiree health and pension funds, a fair recalculation of the agency’s CSRS pension obligations, and an increase in the agency’s borrowing authority, which hasn’t been increased in decades. He emphasized that if the caucus seeks to improve service, these changes are essential.

“For service to improve, the Postal Service must modernize and have the ability to invest in its infrastructure. That infrastructure includes facilities, vehicles, technology and—most importantly—its employees,” he said, and

added, “These policy changes will give them that ability.”

With Postmaster General David Steiner testifying for the first time before Congress on his priorities for the Postal Service, it is essential for the caucus to centralize these polices and avoid any proposals that undermine service, the network, or employees’ safety, benefits and job security.

Representatives from the American Postal Workers Union, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association, the National Association of Postal Supervisors, and the United Postmasters and Managers of America also addressed the caucus.

The postal caucus is a bipartisan group of 26 representatives focused on employee safety, improving service, and the Postal Service’s financial future. The caucus is co-chaired by Reps. Jack Bergman (R-MI), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY) and Chris Pappas (D-NH).

Reps. Nick LaLota (R-NY), Emily Randall (D-WA) and James Walkinshaw (D-VA) also attended the roundtable.

Congress considers legislation to curb mail-in voting

Over the past several months, Congress has considered legislation that would limit voting rights and the accessibility of voting by mail. In February, the House passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act, a voter suppression bill that would make it more difficult for U.S. citizens to vote in person or by mail.

After the administration repeatedly indicated this legislation was a top priority, the Senate was pressured to begin work on it last month.

As this magazine was going to print, dozens of Senate amendments had been introduced. While they vary in severity, an amendment from Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO) includes the major priorities of the administration, including requiring all voters to show ID, requiring proof of citizenship to vote, and eliminating mail-in voting, with exceptions for military service, illness, travel and disability. This amendment also includes other non-voting related partisan priorities of the administration, like banning transgender athletes from women’s sports and gender-affirming surgery for minors.

NALC sent opposition letters to both the House and the Senate and put out a call for NALC members to contact their senators ahead of a potential vote.

As debate over the legislation continues, it faces an uphill battle in the Senate, where 60 votes are needed for passage. However, it makes clear that attacks on vote-by-mail and voting rights are expected to be central in the months to come.

“NALC fully opposes any legislation that attacks the validity and accessibility of mail-in ballots and all Americans’ voting rights,” NALC President Renfroe said. “NALC will fight like hell against any efforts to undermine vote-by-mail or suppress Americans’ votes.”

Supreme Court weighs outlawing late-arriving mail-in ballots

On March 23, the Supreme Court heard arguments on a case from Mississippi involving the legality of states allowing mail-in ballots to arrive after Election Day, if postmarked by Election Day. If the court bans the practice, it could affect

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Jeffrey Brodsky



Robert Steffens



William Gallo

practices in 14 states and the District of Columbia just a few months before the 2026 midterm elections. An additional 15 states that allow for late ballots from military and overseas voters could also see their rules changed.

Lawyers for the Republican and Libertarian parties, as well as Trump's administration, are asking the justices to affirm an appellate ruling that struck down the Mississippi law that allows ballots to be counted if they arrive within five business days of the election and are postmarked by Election Day.

The case is part of the White House's attempts to restrict most mail balloting, which critics say allows for widespread fraud despite strong evidence to the contrary and years of experience in numerous states, including Republican-leaning Utah.

There are broader issues at play if the justices strike down the legality of late-arriving ballots. If ballots must be cast on Election Day, could early voting and absentee ballots be in jeopardy? What about military and overseas ballots?

The court is expected to rule on the case by late June.

President Trump sends USPS BOG nominees to Senate

President Trump nominated Jeffrey Brodsky, Robert Steffens and William Gallo, three Republican nominees, to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors (BOG).

The BOG is structured to include the postmaster general, deputy postmaster general and nine seats, with no more than five from the president's party. Currently, there are four sitting governors—two Democrats, one Republican and one independent—with five vacant governor seats.

Jeffrey Brodsky would fill a vacant seat for a term ending in 2029. Brodsky is a co-founder of Quest Turnaround Advisors, LLC, a management consulting firm that advises companies experiencing financial and operational difficulties on turnaround and crisis management. Brodsky has overseen the bankruptcy and restructuring of many major companies, including Adelphia Communications Corporation, mortgage lender Residential Capital and Premium TV.

Robert Steffens is nominated to fill a vacant seat for a term ending in 2032. Steffens is an entertainment executive currently serving as chief financial officer at FloSports. Steffens spent most of his career at Marvel Entertainment, serving in various operational and financial oversight roles from 2002 to 2023.

William Gallo would fill a vacant seat for a term ending in 2030. Gallo is a retired commodities broker and entrepreneur from New York.

In addition to these three nominations, earlier this year, President Trump resent Anthony Lomangino's nomination to the Senate for a term that would expire in 2031 for a Republican seat. No additional Democratic names have been sent to the Senate.

Customarily, the Senate advances postal-related nominees in bipartisan pairs following Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs vetting, interviews, hearings and committee passage of the nominations before the full Senate votes on them.

NALC is closely monitoring these unknown nominees and will actively work to ensure they have the best interests of the employees and the network before they are confirmed. **PR**