

THE AMERICAN

Postal Worker

APWU

SPECIAL EDITION

**OUR POSTAL SERVICE,
OUR JOBS, AND OUR UNION
ARE UNDER THREAT**

FIGHT for Our Future!



**Find Out How You Can Stand Up
and Fight Back on Page 5.**



APWU Family,

You have likely recently received the March/April issue of our regular bi-monthly edition of *The American Postal Worker*.

However, right after the March/April issue went to press, the public Postal Service, our jobs, and our union came under serious and unprecedented threat by the billionaire "Wall Street" class and the new presidential administration who are aggressively pushing to take over and dismantle the public Postal Service for their own private gains and profits. This is a threat unlike anything we've seen before, and it's more important than ever that we fight back.

The important information in this special edition cannot wait until the next regular cycle of our magazine. The time is urgent! Never in our modern history have postal workers and postal unions faced such wealthy and organized forces arrayed against us and the people's right to universal public postal services, no matter who we are or where we live.

The Postal Service belongs to the people, not the billionaires. "The U.S. Mail is Not for Sale!" Read on to learn more about what is happening, why, and how together we can most effectively stand up, fight back – and win!

Onward and In Union Solidarity,

Mark Dimondstein, President



President Dimondstein on
TV About Threats to USPS



SCAN ME

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Trump expected to take control of USPS, fire postal board, officials say

Experts say the move would likely violate the law. Trump said Friday that Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick would be 'looking at' the mail agency

"President Donald Trump is preparing to dissolve the leadership of the U.S. Postal Service and absorb the independent mail agency into his administration, potentially throwing the 250-year-old mail provider and trillions of dollars of e-commerce transactions into turmoil. Trump is expected to issue an executive order as soon as this week to fire the members of the Postal Service's governing board and place the agency under the control of the Commerce Department and Secretary Howard Lutnick."

February 20, 2025

**WELLS
FARGO**

USPS Privatization: A Framework - All Paths Lead to Better Parcel Pricing

Path to Privatization Starts With Legislation - We believe any real change at USPS would need to start with legislation, effectively repealing the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Bipartisan consensus seems unlikely, but there could be a path through reconciliation if included with the administration's larger budget agenda. This could open the door to the USPS falling into the Department of Commerce headed by Howard Lutnick, who has expressed interest in privatization

DAILY BEAST

Now Elon Musk Says He Wants to DOGE the U.S. Postal Service

Speaking at a tech conference Wednesday, Musk said that privatizing the government service was the "logical" thing to do.

"Elon Musk's newest targets in his quest to slash the federal government: the United States Postal Service and the national passenger railroad company Amtrak. The DOGE chief said Wednesday at a Morgan Stanley tech conference, "Logically, we should prioritize anything that can reasonably be privatized... We should privatize the post office and Amtrak... To understand the federal government, it is like a corporate takeover at scale," Musk said.

March 5, 2025

THE USPS, POSTAL WORKERS UNDER THREAT

POSTAL WORKERS MUST ONCE AGAIN STAND UP AND FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE THREAT OF PRIVATIZATION!

Whether it is with an executive order or another method, the new presidential administration plans to take power away from the bipartisan Postal Board of Governors and place the Postal Service under the control of the Commerce Department, which is run by Wall Street billionaire Howard Lutnick. Make no mistake, this would be the first step towards breaking up and selling off our public Postal Service.

Privatization - selling the Postal Service to private corporations - could happen in a few different ways. It might mean a big sell off of the whole USPS to the private sector. It could mean splitting the network into two or three pieces - selling off the most profitable parts to corporations, while leaving the rest to fail. It could even mean contracting out most of the network. However they try to do it, the effect on postal workers would be similar.

Efforts to sell off the Postal Service, in whole or in part, or to strip it of its independence or public service mission, would be of no benefit to the American people. Instead, it would drive up postage rates and lead to reduced service, especially to rural areas.

The Postal Reorganization Act, the 1970 law that created the Postal Service as an independent agency, intended our work to be freed from the shifting political winds, and dedicated to serving the American public. We have fought

– many times – to keep our service free from political meddling, but we have never seen a threat this

dire. Let's stand up and fight back, APWU! ■

What Would Privatization Mean for You?



You would not have a job with the U.S. Postal Service.



You would no longer be covered by the contract between the APWU and the USPS.



Your wages, benefits, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), and financial and job security would be gone.



Fair hiring practices for disabled veterans and people from all walks of life would likely cease.



Your federal retirement benefits would be frozen and would not increase. New, not-yet-vested workers would lose their retirement.



You would lose your health insurance with the Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan.



Your no-layoff clause and just-cause protections against unfair discipline and termination would cease.



All your benefits, like your sick, vacation, and holiday leave, would be gone.



Your right to file grievances would be lost, unless you are working for a unionized private company. There would be no recourse for unsafe work environments, harassment, and more.



Your postal seniority and related benefits would be gone.

Talking About Postal Privatization Threats

As proud unionized postal workers, this is an urgent time to speak up and be heard! Talk to your co-workers, family, friends, and elected officials. Share information with organizations you are part of. Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers. These “talking points” can help amplify your own voice and message!



The Postal Service is enshrined in the Constitution, created by Congress and supported by the people.



Public postal services are a democratic right of the people. The universal service mandate requires delivery to 169 million addresses at least six days a week. Private companies base their services on private profit and would never provide such a universal service.



The Postal Service belongs to the people, not to any one individual or the billionaires.



The USPS is the low-cost anchor of the \$1.2 trillion mail and package industry consisting of over 7 million jobs.



By law, the U.S. Postal Service runs on its own revenue, not tax dollars. USPS revenue challenges come from declining letters in the internet age. The transition to more package volume combined with new and expanded services is the best solution.



Privatization means turning over public postal services to private companies and investors for maximum profit, not the well-being and rights of the people. Selling off a part or all of the public Postal Service will lead to higher prices and reduced services – especially to rural America.



Privatization would eliminate decent living-wage union jobs for workers from all walks of life, including more than 70,000 military veterans. Good jobs build stronger communities.



The USPS was created by Congress to be free of political interference. The effort to take over the USPS would be an illegal, hostile takeover. The law is clear: The Board of Governors is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Only the Board of Governors can hire or fire the Postmaster General. Only Congress can change the structure of the Postal Service.



The public should take recent threats seriously. In 2018, during President Trump's first term, an OMB budget report proposed outright privatization of the USPS – selling it off to private corporations for private profit. The president has confirmed new efforts to do so.



We stand with the people to defend the Postal Service, as well as other important government services under assault, from VA medical care to Medicaid benefits. Our message is the “US Mail is Not For Sale” – Hands off Our Public Postal Service!



The Post Office will celebrate its 250th anniversary in July. Let's work together to bring another 250 years of strong, public postal services!

Tell Congress to stand up to the administration and protect the Postal Service.

Our union is prepared for this fight.

In response to these threats to postal jobs and our union, the national union has taken the following actions:

The National Executive Board unanimously voted to set up a multi-million dollar **"war chest"** to fight privatization

Producing a series of **ads** to educate the public and defend the Postal Service

Hired a professional polling firm to **survey** the public about their sentiments of the Postal Service

Sent a **letter** to every elected member of Congress urging them to fight with us

Revitalized our coalition A Grand Alliance to Save Our Postal Service

Garnered full **AFL-CIO** support

Launched a **press campaign** in the national media in defense of the public Post Office

Preparing **legal strategies** to take our fight to the courts when appropriate

It's going to take all of us to fight back against these attacks. Now more than ever we need to

strengthen our union. Recruit a nonmember today!



APWU STANDING UP, FIGHTING BACK!

We have always fought for a vibrant, public Postal Service that exists to serve the people of our nation for generations to come. We will regularly update our website (apwu.org) with the latest news and events and will update apwu.org/action with all the latest actions that you can take. But this fight isn't going away. The APWU leadership urges all members to take action and organize our coworkers, families, and communities to fight with us.



Email Your Legislators

Urge your legislators to protect our public Post Office!

People deserve a Postal Service that remains true to its public mission and continues to serve communities across the country.

Call Your Senators



The Postal Service belongs to the people, and only the legally appointed Board of Governors—nominated by the President and confirmed by the

Senate—can hire and fire the Postmaster General. Call 844-402-1001 to be connected to your senators and encourage them to support our fight to stay an independent agency.



Encourage Support for House Resolution 70

On Jan. 28, 2025, a bipartisan group in the House of Representatives introduced House Resolution (H. Res.) 70, which expresses the ***"sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization."*** When you speak to your representative, encourage them to support this resolution. We expect a similar resolution to be introduced in the Senate soon.



Email the Postal Board of Governors

According to reports, the Board of Governors is taking a firm stance in support of an independent Postal Service. Send an email of encouragement to **the Postal Board of Governors and urge them to stand firm in their position to preserve and defend the public Postal Service.**

Find all these actions at apwu.org/action

TO THE TRUTH

LET'S GET



MYTH: The USPS loses billions of dollars each year in taxpayers' money.



FACT: The Postal Service is self-funded and relies on revenue generated from the sale of stamps, products, and services to pay for its operations.



MYTH: The USPS is obsolete because letter mail volumes have steadily declined in the digital age.



FACT: The Postal Service is 250 years old and has always adapted to new technology and mail-mix. While letter mail is down, package volumes are up. Additionally, the *Postal Reform Act of 2022* allows the Postal Service to offer new services to local government. These and other expanded services like postal banking, could underpin USPS finances for generations to come.



MYTH: The USPS isn't profitable, so it should be run like a business.



FACT: The Postal Service is not a business; it is enshrined in the constitution and has a congressionally-mandated obligation to serve the people by delivering to all 169 million addresses, urban or rural, six days a week.



MYTH: If the mail was run by private companies, the universal service obligation would still exist and the Postal Service would deliver to every address.



FACT: Delivery would be driven by profit margins, and private companies will only go to where they can make a profit. Sections of our population could lose mail service entirely. Prices would rise according to whatever the company demands for their own profit.



MYTH: Moving the USPS under the Commerce Department would mean it is still a public agency, and not subject to privatization.



FACT: Moving the USPS under the Commerce Department would be a step backwards, giving power back to the Executive Branch and removing the independent governance that allows us to serve America free from political interference. It could also affect labor union contracts, vote-by-mail initiatives, and much more. Trump-appointed Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick would be in charge. He has already expressed interest in privatizing the Postal Service. This administration intends to break up and sell off the profitable portions of the Postal Service to billionaires and USPS competitors.

Who Wants To Sell Our National Treasure?

ELON MUSK



Behind President Trump is Elon Musk, who called for privatizing the Postal Service at a tech conference hosted by investment banking giant Morgan Stanley. Musk now oversees the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). DOGE is cutting funding for programs and services that people rely on in the name of rooting out waste. But DOGE efforts are not about addressing government waste, they are about shifting public sector programs to for-profit contracts. Musk recently stated that anyone receiving government benefits is part of a “parasite class.” But Musk, the richest person in the world, made \$38 billion of his wealth from federal contracts, subsidies, and tax credits. In fact, he is the parasite, making money off taxpayers like us.

HOWARD LUTNICK



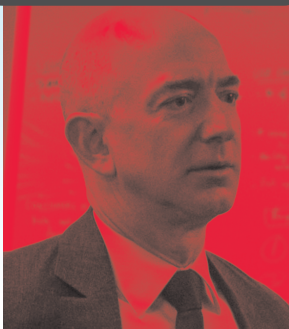
If the USPS is moved under the Commerce Department, it would be run by Howard Lutnick, a Trump-installed donor from Wall Street. Lutnick himself has urged Trump to consider privatizing the Postal Service. Lutnick is the former chairman and CEO of investment firm Cantor Fitzgerald. He is a billionaire who made his money as a hedge fund manager. Hedge funds often buy and break up companies for profit. Under Lutnick’s leadership, Cantor Fitzgerald was fined nearly \$7 million by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in December 2024 for making misleading statements between 2020-21 about two special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) that it controlled, failing to disclose discussions it had with the target companies.

WELLS FARGO



Wells Fargo recently published a report on how profitable it would be for investors to buy up the Postal Service. They stated that privatizing could be a huge money-maker for investors, calling the Postal Service “an obvious source of value.” They suggest the Postal Service should sell off the most profitable parts of its service – primarily packages and parcels, while putting taxpayers, who currently don’t pay a dime, on the hook for the rest. Wells Fargo claimed that if they were in control, they could raise package shipping costs by as much as 140 percent.

JEFF BEZOS



It is no coincidence that *The Washington Post*, which is owned by billionaire anti-union Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, published an editorial calling for the breakup of the Postal Service. As a competitor in the shipping industry, Bezos would stand to win from any privatization of the Postal Service, as he would lose a major competitor and see his profits rise.



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NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1028
LONG PRAIRIE, MN

Hands off! our public Postal Service!

The Postal Service is facing one of the most serious threats in our history. Our message is clear: "Hands off Our Public Postal Service - U.S. Mail is Not For Sale!"

Take action to defend
our public postal service!

TEXT "DEFEND"
TO 91990

APWU.ORG/
ACTION



WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION: (VISIT APWU.ORG/ACTION)

- Email your Legislators & the Postal Board of Governors.
- Call the APWU Legislative Hotline at 844-402-1001.
- Share the information in this magazine with your co-workers, family, and friends.



apwu.org/action