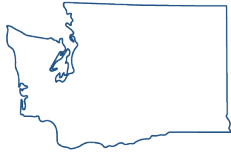


MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 2, 2026

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

I write in response to the troubling and likely unconstitutional proposed rule currently under consideration by the United States Postal Service (USPS), which could result in unlawful federal control over state vote-by-mail procedures. Mail-in voting has anchored election participation in Washington for over four decades, which is why I am deeply troubled that the USPS's June 2, 2026, proposed rule could disenfranchise some of the approximately three million Washington residents who are expected to cast mail ballots in 2026.

Though the Proposed Rule states that USPS will not be reviewing voter rolls for eligibility, the Executive Order instructs the Postal Service to work with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to purge voters using the DHS SAVE program and Social Security Administration data. I am concerned that the intent of the proposed rule is to enable the USPS to work with the DHS to remove voters from a state's voter rolls.

The Postmaster General said in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee on June 24, 2026, that if a state does not submit their mail voter rolls to the USPS, USPS will not deliver election mail – making mail-in and absentee voting impossible for the state's election officials or voters. This is contrary to Congress' mandate for the USPS, which is to "provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities," and therefore a violation of your statutory obligations.

Proceeding with this rulemaking may conflict with two federal court orders. Specifically, on June 25, 2026, a federal district court found key provisions of Executive Order 14399 likely unconstitutional, enjoined their implementation, and ordered the defendants, other than the President, but including the Postmaster General, to “in good faith, take such steps as are necessary to prevent explicit or implicit implementation of Sections 2, 3 and 5 of Executive Order 14399, and to cease and reverse any implementation of those provisions, as to Plaintiff States, with respect to the November 3, 2026 or any earlier federal election.” The court also ordered the defendants, other than the President, but including the Postmaster General, to provide written notice of the court’s June 25 order within seven days to all defendants and their employees “and to further notify them that Sections 2 and 3 of the EO are unlawful, null, and void and Section 5 is merely precatory, as to Plaintiff States with respect to the November 3, 2026 or any earlier federal election.” and the court also directed all defendants to file a status report with the court “describing steps taken to ensure compliance” with its order.

In addition, on July 1, 2026, in *NAACP v. United States Postal Service*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia held that implementation of the proposed rule would violate the terms of the settlement between the two parties, leading the court to enjoin the USPS from implementing the proposed rule.

To date, I am not aware of any public indication that USPS is complying with the court orders. Therefore, I ask that you please comply with court orders and terminate this rulemaking and any efforts or actions to implement Executive Order 14399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" and last name "Cantwell" clearly distinguishable.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator