



*The Save the Post Office Coalition came together in summer 2020, soon after Postmaster Louis DeJoy began cutting service and slowing down the mail. The coalition's membership includes over 300 organizations that range from national groups like Public Citizen, ACLU, Take on Wall Street, NAACP, Indivisible, MoveOn, Color of Change, American Postal Workers Union, National Farmers Union, VoteVets, and RuralOrganizing.org, to state groups like Mainers for Accountable Leadership, Alaska PIRG, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.*

## **Confirm Stroman, McReynolds & Hajjar: Why saving the post office means new leadership on USPS's Board of Governors**

Louis DeJoy was appointed Postmaster General on June 15, 2020. Before conducting any [impact analysis](#) studies, DeJoy immediately began to cut mail service, banning overtime for postal workers, requiring mail trucks to depart "on time," even when empty or half-full, and removing hundreds of mail sorting machines. By July 11, on-time mail delivery was already down 3%, and throughout the year it continued to plummet.

[Fifty percent more](#) mail delivery complaints were filed in zip codes with populations over 45% Black, Indigenous, or other people of color. Farmers, [veterans](#), and seniors, especially in [rural areas](#) the private carriers don't serve were especially hard-hit: medications arrived late, shipments of [baby chicks](#) died in transit, and countless [rent checks](#) and [bill payments](#) failed to arrive on time. DeJoy failed to staff up sufficiently for a predictable COVID-19-related [holiday surge](#) in package volume and a workforce diminished by COVID illness and quarantine, hiring only half the number of seasonal workers that [UPS](#) did, and 20,000 fewer than [FedEx](#). In the last week of December, a record-breaking low [38%](#) of three-day mail was delivered on time.

### **The Path to New Leadership**

The Postmaster General is not technically a presidential appointment; the position reports to an independent USPS Board of Governors, who are appointed by the president. There are currently four vacant seats on this board, including one governor serving a grace year. The [postal workforce](#) is 39% people of color and 40% women, but the current governors consist of six white men. In appointing Louis DeJoy Postmaster General, the governors chose a major political donor with [millions in stock](#) in postal service competitors and contractors, a history of presiding over documented [labor abuses](#) ranging from sexual harassment to safety violations, and the author of a scheme to solicit contributions to political candidates from his employees

and later reimburse them to [evade campaign finance limits](#). These disqualifications did not surface before his appointment because the board did not require an [FBI background check](#) on Louis DeJoy, as was standard with the other candidates. White House interference in the hiring process was so [irregular](#) that two members of postal leadership [resigned](#) in protest rather than endorse DeJoy's hiring.

In September, at the height of the service cuts and record poor performance rates, board member John Barger declared "The board is [tickled pink](#), every single board member, with the impact he's having," and current Board Chair Ron Bloom has [unreservedly endorsed](#) DeJoy's ten year plan to make the current mail slowdowns permanent. This board has proven itself incapable of leading the postal service in the present, much less in the future.

### **Why These Nominees?**

To be a strong candidate for USPS governor, nominees must bring badly-needed diversity to the board, demonstrate a willingness to pursue innovative revenue streams like restoring postal banking, commit to strengthening and not weakening service standards, and work with Congress to remove artificial barriers to USPS's financial health.

As Louis DeJoy was testifying before the House in February, President Biden [announced](#) the nomination of three new members to the Board of Governors: Ron Stroman, Amber McReynolds, and Anton Hajjar. Stroman was formerly the deputy postmaster general and resigned rather than endorse a suspicious hiring process, McReynolds is a leading expert and advocate for voting-by-mail, and Hajjar is a labor attorney and an expert in civil rights and data law. Their respective track records of integrity, and their areas of professional expertise, qualify them each to serve as responsible stewards of the postal service's future.

### **Ask Your Senators to Vote Yes on All Three Nominees to the Postal Board of Governors**

Nominees to the independent USPS Board of Governors require Senate confirmation. The first and most important vote happens in the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC), and then the nominations move to the full Senate. While all Senators' votes will count in the confirmation process, we are especially interested in communicating support for the nominees to HSGAC membership: Chair Peters (D-MI), Ranking Member Portman (R-OH), and Senators Carper (D-DE), Hassan (D-NH), Synema (D-AZ), Rosen (D-NV), Padilla (D-CA), Ossoff (D-GA), Johnson (R-WI), Rand (R-KY), Lankford (R-OK), Romney (R-UT), Scott (R-FL), and Hawley (R-MO).

Messages to the progressive grassroots can center on firing DeJoy, but the template emails or call scripts directed toward Republican Senators should focus on the impact of service cuts on their constituents, rather than DeJoy personally, to avoid the perception of partisan politics.

**Please call or email your Senators today and ask them to vote yes on all three nominations to the USPS Board of Governors.**