

Biden-Harris Elected; Struggle to Save the Postal Service Continues

Statement from APWU President Mark Dimondstein

In a close election, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. prevailed in his campaign for U.S. President. The APWU heartily congratulates the President-elect and Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris on their electoral victory.

The APWU elected leadership applauds Biden's victory, as does an overwhelming majority of our members. Joe Biden was endorsed by the APWU National Executive Board based on a clear and stark choice. We will soon have someone in the White House who supports the public Postal Service, not one planning to dismantle and privatize it. We will have a leader who champions union rights, not one proposing to eliminate our collective bargaining rights. We will have in the White House a President who respects the dedication and integrity of postal workers, not one who labels us as corrupt and a joke. We will have a President who respects people, not one who divides us by fanning the flames of racial and religious bigotry.

No matter our politics, every APWU member from all crafts should be extremely proud of our role in securing the public's most precious democratic right – the right to vote. An unprecedented 65 million voters chose to “vote-by-mail.” Amid a deadly pandemic, 2020's turnout was the highest in 50 years, thanks to the safety afforded voters by vote-by-mail.

With extra hours, extra attention, extra effort and extra priority, postal workers moved “heaven and earth” to make sure ballots were processed, arrived on time and were counted.

Since election day, we have stood with the people of the country who expect and insist that every vote, including all mail ballots, will be counted and the

results respected. We stand united with fair-minded people against any attempts to subvert the will of the people, any march toward tyranny, and fabricated claims of a rigged election based on vote-by-mail.

I fully respect that our members hold many varying political beliefs and applaud all for their political involvement. Members worked for various candidates, participated in the APWU Legislative and Political Department's “Labor 2020” program, registered voters, talked to co-workers, family and friends, made phone calls, worked the polls – and voted!

Although the political landscape is changing, we will continue to face great challenges. But we must never forget that it is movements that move presidents and Congress, not the other way around.

Louis DeJoy is still Postmaster General. He has promised to double down on policies that slowed the mail and drive away revenue. The Board of Governors enabling these policies remains in place. We must secure emergency COVID financial relief from Congress. We must remain vigilant on health and safety in this COVID world. Wall Street postal privatizers come in all political stripes. Efforts to expand and enhance postal services must accelerate. Postal reform legislation is needed. Bargaining for a new union contract begins this coming year.

With the election behind us, we must unify and redouble of our efforts to save the public Postal Service, defend our jobs and strengthen our union. As working people, we have far more in common than that which divides us. While we celebrate a political victory, much work remains for our union. *The Struggle Continues!*

Defend the Post Office on Nov. 17

Our demand for emergency postal funding and a permanent reversal to harmful mail delays continues. On Tuesday, November 17, people across the country will celebrate the Postal Service as a pillar of our democracy and renew our call to save the public Postal Service.

It's time to pass \$25 billion in emergency postal relief and permanently stop DeJoy's delays.

Postal workers and supporters are organizing press conferences/events across the country, recognizing

our role in delivering democracy and calling on Congress to support and expand our public Postal Service.

To find an event near you, go to apwu.org/post-office-action.

We're also calling on members to call Congress and demand \$25 billion emergency relief and to stop DeJoy's delays at 844-402-1001.