

APWU Members and Allies Continue Push to Save the Post Office

On November 17, APWU members and community allies came together in virtual and in-person events across the country to reaffirm our demands for \$25 billion in immediate COVID-19 financial relief from Congress and a permanent reversal of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's delays.

During the election, postal workers processed a record number of mail-in ballots, moving "heaven and earth" to make sure all 65 million reached their location in time to be processed. This success would not have been possible without the work of APWU members on local election task forces, who made sure no ballot was left behind.

However, though the election is behind us, the threats facing the Postal Service remain very much a reality. The USPS is still in a financial crisis and faces the upcoming reinstatement of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's harmful policy changes.

"This year has underscored how valuable the Postal Service is to the people of our country...As proud, dedicated public servants and frontline heroes, postal workers have carried out the postal mission of connecting us all during a tragic and deadly pandemic," said President Dimondstein during the APWU National's press conference.

"Despite our success on election mail, and the role of the postal service in the pandemic, the Postal Service remains under threat," President Dimondstein continued. "Simply put, we defended democracy, and now, we the people, must defend the public Postal Service."



San Francisco, CA

At over 30 events across the country, with hundreds participating, we showed our commitment to #SaveThePostOffice will not be thwarted. Additionally, over 5,000 calls were made to Congress to demand \$25 billion for the Postal Service and a permanent reversal of DeJoy's cuts to service. Many of the events held press conferences for local outlets.

The press events organized across the country were anchored by a national press call with reporters from more than 20 national outlets. That call featured President Dimondstein, Atlanta Metro Area Local Assistant Clerk Craft Director Chantriss Flanagan, and Hilary Shelton, Director of the Washington (D.C.) Bureau of the NAACP.

During the press conference, Flanagan spoke about her work on her local's election task force committee and answered questions about what she experiences now with mail delays and concerns about the rising COVID-19 numbers.

"A lot of employees are willing and ready to let the Post Office shine and show that we are essential employees," Flanagan said. "I've enjoyed working on the task force because it gets more employees involved; and they are out here trying to find that political mail and make it move, because that's what we do – make the mail move and get it where it's supposed to go."

In his remarks, Shelton spoke on the importance of the public Postal Service in the last election.

"This was the largest participation of any election in the history of the United States, and certainly the largest number of mail-in ballots were managed



Tarrant County, TX

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by the United States Postal Service throughout this process, to make sure that even in a coronavirus pandemic, Americans were able to have their voices heard and their votes counted,” Shelton said. “It was extraordinary to see the American Postal Workers Union step up as it did, to make sure that all of these ballots were cast.”

The Day of Action was successful in attracting local and national media coverage in cities including Honolulu, HI; Boston, MA; Davenport, IA; Bakersfield, CA; Portland, OR; Seattle, WA; Columbus, MS; Portland, ME; Washington, DC; Burlington, VT; Detroit, MI; Grand Rapids, MI; Reno, NV; and Phoenix, AZ.

Many labor and community allies – including the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, AFT, NNU, Our Revolution, Common Cause, Public Citizen, LCLAA, Take on Wall Street and League of Women Voters – posted their support for people’s Post Office, encouraging their members/followers to also make calls. In addition, the events gained wide support from public figures, including U.S. Women’s Soccer star Megan Rapinoe, who shared the Day of Action with her 910,000 followers.

APWU members who attended a Day of Action event are encouraged to send photos to communications@apwu.org. More information on future events to Save the Post Office will be shared in future News Service Bulletins and on apwu.org.

APWU Members Give Their All in Labor 2020 Campaign

In the face of continuous attacks on the Postal Service, voter suppression, and a pandemic, the APWU’s Legislative & Political Department launched Labor 2020 – our campaign to mobilize voters, elect leaders who will work to better the lives of working families, and guarantee the future of the public Postal Service.

As part of our campaign, we launched apwu.org/labor-2020 to help members and their families check their voter registration status, register to vote, request their mail-in ballots and make a plan to vote. Through the website, members also recorded messages telling us what this election means to them with our Labor 2020 Video Tool.

We worked in unison with the AFL-CIO Labor 2020 campaign. Together, we promoted National Voter Registration Day (encouraging our members to check their registration status), asked members to become election workers, and made thousands of phone calls into battleground states.

“APWU’s Labor 2020 campaign successfully mobilized voters and helped elect a leader who has promised to preserve our union jobs and public Postal Service,” said Legislative & Political Director Judy Beard. “We want to thank the National Executive Board, national officers, local and state officers, retirees, and auxiliary members for all their hard work this election cycle. We especially want to thank members for making calls, sending texts, sharing their reason for voting with our video tool, and volunteering as election workers. Labor 2020 and this election would not be possible without postal workers.”

For the full article on the Legislative & Political Department’s Labor 2020 campaign, go to apwu.org or page 18 of the November/December issue of *The American Postal Worker*.



Missouri APWU members with MO State Sen. Jill Schupp (center, holding sign) and MO State Rep. Deb Lavender (to the right of Schupp)

Wage Increase to Come in Dec. 11 Paychecks

On November 21, 2020 the third and final general salary increase of the 2018 APWU/USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement became effective. It will show up on paychecks dated December 11, 2020. The final increase will be 1.0% of the salary, effective on September 20, 2018. PSEs will receive an additional 1.0% as well, totalling 2.0% (PSEs do not receive COLAs).

Overall, employees will have received 3.4% in salary increases under the 2018-2021 contract, excluding COLA adjustments for career employees or any extra pay increases for PSEs.

Even though this is the last general salary increase under the contract, there is also a possibility of two additional COLAs for career employees.