

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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**Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney**  
**Committee on Oversight and Reform**  
**Full Committee Business Meeting**  
**Opening Statement on H.R. 8901, the Nonpartisan Postmaster General Act**  
**September 17, 2020**

The next bill we will be considering is H.R. 8109, the Nonpartisan Postmaster General Act.

The United States Postal Service is one of our nation's most trusted institutions. It dates to the very founding of our country and consistently receives the highest rating of federal agencies from the public

Every day, it provides millions of people with access to critical mail, medications, and especially in this unique election year, mail-in ballots.

We are six months into the worst pandemic in a century. Millions of people are stuck in their homes and rely upon the Postal Service for access to critical contact and supplies. Veterans and America's seniors rely heavily upon the Postal Service, especially during these trying times, for access to medications they need to live and remain healthy. A well-funded, independent Postal Service has never been more necessary.

The faith of the American public in Postal Service is paramount, particularly in a year when hundreds of millions of ballots will be cast by mail. That is why it is so critical that the Postal Service remain free from partisan politics.

Fifty years ago, Congress attempted to insulate the Postal Service from political infighting by passing the Postal Reorganization Act to ensure that the Postal Service is, and I quote, "an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States." Unfortunately, that independence is now being threatened.

President Trump undermined the independence of the Postal Service by installing a partisan mega-donor, Robert M. Duncan, as Chairman of the Postal Service Board of Governors.

The Board then appointed another Republican fundraiser, Louis DeJoy, as Postmaster General using an unusual process which the Committee is investigating. Both officials are longtime political operatives, fundraisers, and mega-donors, and they are overt about their efforts to help Donald Trump win in November.

Chairman Duncan is currently serving on two Republican super-PACs—American Crossroads, founded by Karl Rove and Ed Gillespie, and the Republican Senate Leadership Fund, whose CEO is Senator McConnell's former Chief of Staff. He is doing so at the same time he is supposed to be overseeing the Postal Service.

His official biography on the Postal Service's government website even boasts about his fundraising prowess for partisan Republican causes stating, and I quote:

Outside of government service, he served as Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2007 to 2009. As RNC Chairman, he raised an unprecedented \$428 million and grew the donor base to 1.8 million—more donors than at any time in RNC history.

On the same day as our hearing with Mr. Duncan in August, the Republican National Committee played a video during the Republican convention roll call in which Mr. Duncan appeared alongside a group of individuals who could be heard chanting, “four more years.”

Nobody can argue with a straight face that Mr. Duncan and Mr. DeJoy are nonpartisan.

To help restore the independence of the Postal Service, this bill would make the Postmaster General, the Deputy Postmaster General, and Board of Governors restricted employees under the Hatch Act.

That means they would be prohibited from soliciting, receiving, or accepting donations for partisan political parties or candidates; campaigning on behalf of candidates in partisan political elections; holding positions in political party organizations; or organizing political events or meetings.

While we encourage personal political engagement, it has no place in independent agencies, which is why numerous other federal agencies including the intelligence agencies, Department of Justice, FEC, and more already have these restrictions in place for their employees.

The bill also would prevent anyone who has held a political position in the last four years from being hired as Postmaster General or Deputy Postmaster General.

We have a choice: we can continue to allow the President to turn the Postal Service into a partisan football—and watch the faith of the public in this critical agency vanish—or we can work together to ensure that no Administration or political party can unduly influence the actions of this treasured American institution.

I urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

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