

Highway 90 Democratic Coalition



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August 18, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam;

We are a coalition of 10 counties, represented by Democratic County Chairs, in Central Texas. We are largely rural, but there are significant urban areas in each of our counties. Also, we include some of the fastest growing counties in the state and the country. The population of our included counties total nearly 300,00 as of the last census and fully half or more of them are Democrats.

We have been reading with dismay the reports of the dismantling of the United States Postal Service by the Trump Administration and his appointee, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The President has admitted that his intention is to undermine the November 3 General Election by making the Mail in Ballots harder to be both received and submitted to count in the Election. The legality of this move is certainly in question, but there is no question as to its ethical violations. This is reprehensible.

In a recent letter sent to Members of Congress, House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi said, "The Postal Service is a pillar of our democracy, enshrined in the Constitution and essential for providing critical services: delivering prescriptions, Social Security benefits, paychecks, tax returns and absentee ballots to millions of Americans, including in our most remote communities. Alarming, across the nation, we see the devastating effects of the President's campaign to sabotage the election by manipulating the Postal Service to disenfranchise voters."

If the postal service, as we know it, is dismantled and privatized, as seems to be the objective here, the rural areas of the country will unjustly bear the brunt of these changes, as well as seniors and those who are financially more unstable than those who reside in more urban or affluent areas of the country. It will join other critical infrastructure that is ignored or overlooked for non-urban areas. When profit is the motive, the density of populations makes the urban settings much more attractive to for-profit groups. That leaves us outside the population centers with inadequate internet, which is becoming

increasingly critical in the pandemic, inadequate medical care, inadequate electrical access due to the aging power grids, and now, due to the desire for the potential profits along with the desire of Mr. Trump to be re-elected at any cost, the one area where we had parity with the urban areas, our postal service, will be undercut and undermined.

Seniors and Veterans depend on the mail to receive their medications in a timely and cost-effective manner. Privatization would increase costs for these vulnerable groups. Fully 80% of veterans, those who have served their country and paid huge prices for doing so, receive their medications by mail. That is an immense burden for groups that are already underserved. Seniors also are able to order their medications in bulk and save money, and in fact, mail delivery is required by some insurers. As well, seniors do not have to drive nor arrange transportation to obtain their medically essential medications. Further, Postal Service employees, who, if this maneuvering is successful, will join the burgeoning ranks of the unemployed. It should be noted that a significant proportion of these workers are Veterans as well.

As to the myth that there are problems with the Mail In Ballots and that they have the potential for massive corruption (it has been suggested by the President that groups can just print them out and send them in and the ballots will count), it speaks more to the ignorance of those making such absurd claims than it does to the truth. It is also incredibly insulting to the workers from both parties who work side by side in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the elections are fair and that every possible vote can be counted. There are no other ballots cast during an election that receives more cross checking and intensive scrutiny by bipartisan committees than the Mail-In or Absentee Ballot.

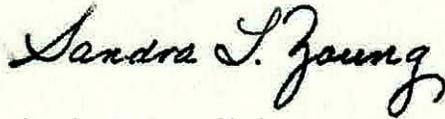
The mail in ballot is the only way that the military, our Diplomats and overseas Governmental employees and their families who are on duty in distant locations can vote. Expats and vacationers, or those working away from home have no other way to cast their ballot. Are these citizens and civil Servants and Governmental employees also expected to give up their right to a voice in the elections in order to serve? This is a gross injustice.

Seniors, those who are disabled and ill or who cannot get to the polls depend on the Absentee Ballot to exercise their voice in formulating the Nations' agenda. Both parties use the Absentee Ballot as a legitimate way of insuring that those voices will be heard. One should not have to jeopardize one's health and safety to vote.

Although we are Democrats, we are also your constituents, and we not only vote, but we have influence over thousands of other voters in our communities. We demand that these

moves to interfere in the Electoral Process and to undermine the United States Postal Service, be halted at once and that necessary sums be provided to the postal service, a service, not intended to make a profit, as it is to businesses that ARE for profits, such as the Oil Industry and Farmers. This must be done at once before any other moves are made to further undermine the Postal Service. We are watching closely and expect our voices to be heard by you.

Sincerely,



Sandra Young, Chair

Medina County Democratic Party, On behalf of the County Chairs of the Highway 90 Democratic Coalition, including the following counties:

- Atascosa
- Frio
- Zavala
- Maverick
- Medina
- Uvalde
- Kinney
- Real
- Edwards
- Val Verde

