

National Association of Postal Supervisors 2020 Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

In late July, NAPS sent its 2020 presidential candidate questionnaire to the two major candidates for president of the United States. The questionnaires were sent to the campaign headquarters via Priority Mail, with a follow-up email. NAPS received the completed questionnaire from former Vice President Joseph Biden's campaign by NAPS' Sept. 8 deadline.

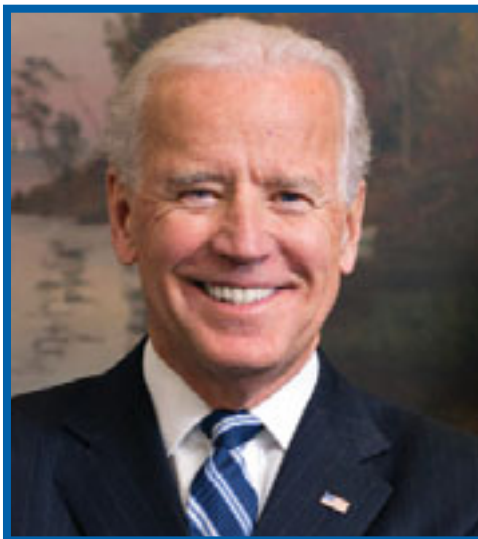
NAPS reached out a third time to Donald Trump's campaign by phone, by email and by letter to White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. As of the Sept. 8 deadline, no questionnaire was received from the Trump campaign. This questionnaire is for information only; NAPS does not endorse presidential candidates.

Presidential Candidate Joe Biden

Q What are the most important issues you believe NAPS members should consider when deciding between you and the other presidential candidate?

A We rely on the Postal Service for our democracy, our health and our prosperity. President Trump is attacking the U.S. Postal Service, one of our country's most trusted institutions. A Biden-Harris administration will ensure the Postal Service has the support it needs to not only survive this crisis, but emerge capable of serving the American people while charging affordable rates. In a Biden-Harris administration, the USPS will be led by ethical experts who believe in the importance of a public postal service.

Q The U.S. Postal Service has been financially saddled with a unique and unfair requirement



to prefund future retiree health premiums and further tested by the transformation of its mail mix from letter mail to small parcels. Finally, the agency and its employees have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. What do you believe are the most critical challenges facing the U.S. Postal Service and its employees?

A As stated in the previous answer, President Trump's attack on the U.S. Postal Service is an attack on one of the country's oldest, most trusted institutions—

and one of the few institutions explicitly authorized by the U.S. Constitution. It threatens our ability to communicate with our loved ones, receive life-saving medications and operate small businesses.

Additionally, the Trump administration has refused to provide the Postal Service with much-needed funding, calling for rate increases on customers, while pushing to eventually privatize the agency. It's wrong and it stops in a Biden-Harris administration.

Q What actions would your administration take to address these challenges?

A A Biden-Harris administration will ensure the Postal Service has the support it needs to not only survive this crisis, but emerge capable of serving the American people, while charging affordable rates.

In a Biden-Harris administration, the USPS will be led by ethical experts who believe in the importance of a public postal service. We will:

- supply the U.S. Postal Service with an emergency relief so it has the resources to continue serving the American people.
- protect the U.S. Postal Service against privatization.
- revoke the requirement that the Postal Service fully prefund employee benefits to protect the long-term financial health of the Postal Service.
- invest in clean postal infrastructure to modernize the postal fleet.
- explore the potential of diversification of services.
- enhance Postal Service leadership by filling the vacant seats on the Postal Service Board of Governors.
- protect USPS union workers' rights by making it easier for workers to join a union and collectively bargain and protect postal workers' pensions and health benefits.

Q The obligation to provide our nation with universal postal services is a hallmark of the U.S. Postal Service. Universal service has been operationally defined in the context of delivery frequency and mail accessibility. Also, the agency has been heralded for its ability to secure the mail. Consequently, numerous national surveys have consistently awarded the Postal Service stellar approval ratings, making it the most approved federal agency. What changes, if any, to the Postal Service's universal service obligation or security protections would your administration recommend?

A USPS workers are the eyes and ears of the community and often are on the first line of defense for rural and disenfranchised communities. Postal service is provided to everyone and every house, regardless of geography, income, race, religion or sexual orientation. We must honor and defend the USPS' universal service obligation as a core belief of our great nation.

We also support maintaining six-day mail delivery for every American home and business. Ensuring the six-day mail delivery that allows the USPS to stay competitive and honor its universal service obligation is a critical national priority in 2020 and the future.

Rural communities disproportionately benefit from

Saturday delivery—not only as a result of the USPS jobs that are created, but also because remote areas are disproportionately reliant on frequent delivery in order to access goods; private providers do not have incentive to deliver to these communities. This is particularly important for the delivery of sensitive packages, such as prescription drugs and infant formula that need to be received in a timely manner.

The country has evolved since the initial idea of moving away from six-day mail delivery. Years ago, the idea of reducing delivery days was discussed as an option to support the USPS as it faced uncertainty in managing its mandate to prefund retiree health care. Since then, the rise of e-commerce has fueled customer reliance on six-day delivery. The USPS should be able to deliver on that expectation.

Without six-day delivery, customers who have the option of shifting to private delivery services may do so, hurting the ability of the USPS to stay competitive as it attempts to stabilize its fiscal status. A Biden-Harris administration will protect six-day delivery.

Q The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to affect the way by which Americans vote in the upcoming fall election. What are your views on vote-by-mail?

A It's no coincidence that President Trump and his allies have ramped up their attacks on the Postal Service just as Americans prepare to cast their ballots in the fall. This is another one of President Trump's scare tactics to undermine voter confidence in voting by mail and the election results. The truth is Trump himself requested a vote-by-mail ballot for the Florida primary in August. His own campaign has endorsed voting by mail. And, his administration has conclusively refuted his conspiracy theories about the most secure form of voting.

The Postal Service has the capacity to support voting by mail. We have to make it easier for everybody to be able to vote, especially during a national pandemic. If it's good enough for Donald Trump, it's good enough for every voter.

Q Unlike many foreign postal entities, the U.S. Postal Service continues to be a governmental operation. Do you believe it should remain an inherently governmental function or should it be privatized/corporatized?

A The USPS should not be privatized. As a U.S. senator, I co-sponsored the "Mail Delivery Protection Act," which would have protected the USPS from priva-

tization by prohibiting it from contracting mail delivery to private contractors. As president, I will continue the fight to protect the Postal Service from all attempts at privatization.

Q All pay and fringe benefits issues for NAPS members are governed under 39 U.S. Code § 1004. Under existing law, postal supervisors, managers and postmasters are denied the right to a fair and prompt resolution of compensation matters with the Postal Service. Would you sign into law legislation, such as H.R. 6085, to provide fairness to the process by which postal supervisors, managers' and postmasters' compensation is determined in the event of an impasse?

A I am committed to working with NAPS to find a fair way to resolve pay disputes between your members and the USPS.

Q Active and retired postal supervisors, managers and postmasters currently participate in the Civil Service Retirement System, Federal Employees Retirement System and Federal Employees Health

Benefits Program for their earned retirement and health benefits. What changes, if any, would you propose to these benefits?

A We support full repeal of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination provisions of the Social Security law. Current rules penalize public-sector workers who either switch jobs or who have earned retirement benefits from various sources. We will get rid of the benefit cuts for workers and surviving beneficiaries who happen to be covered by both Social Security and another pension. These workers deserve the benefits they earned.

We support repealing the cost-shifting in FERS and oppose proposals to decrease the government's share of federal workers' benefits. We oppose any and all efforts to reduce benefits under FEHBP. Our federal employees deserve fair compensation and should not be subject to cuts in health insurance premiums or other critical employee benefits.

The federal government should lead by example and provide high-quality benefits, instead of pushing anti-worker budget adjustments designed to shift the burden of health care and retirement costs onto employees.

A USPS Balancing Act— Business vs. Service

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In order for this to occur, the Postal Service must find the right balance to provide the highest level of service against the goal to achieve operational efficiency and financial stability. How does the USPS achieve this balance between business and service when challenged with declining First-Class Mail volume, increased package business, current performance issues, efforts to reduce costs, answer to stakeholders and survive as a political football during an election year—all during a worldwide pandemic? Not by eating the entire elephant at one time.

To start, the USPS must have a solid business plan and structure balanced to coincide with current laws, postal policies, sufficient resources (postal capital equipment and employee staffing), operational strate-

gies and schedules. This balancing act must be qualified and quantified with data and analysis to determine the probability of success.

Communicate, communicate and communicate to stakeholders regarding decisions and actions that may impact service to the American public. Lack of communication, inconsistent messaging and misinformation lead to transparency deficiency and skepticism about the USPS.

In an Aug. 18 *Postal News* statement, DeJoy communicated the following to all Americans:

- Retail hours at post offices will not change.
- Mail processing equipment and blue collection boxes will remain where they are.
- No mail processing facilities will be closed.
- The USPS will reassert that overtime has, and will continue to be, approved, as needed.

• Effective Oct. 1, the USPS will engage standby resources in all areas of its operations, including transportation, to satisfy any unforeseen demand.

Again, if the Postal Service is to accomplish cost reductions, operational efficiency and financial stability under a new organizational structure and business plan, it must balance the business of the agency with high levels of service to the American public. When the right balance is achieved, the USPS will experience greater service performance, exponential savings and elevated public trust, while, at the same time, securing the agency's success and long-term sustainability.

I think your waistline may grow exponentially with my October ice-cream-flavor-of-the-month recommendation: Cinnabon.

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