

# May 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights Stands in Solidarity with U.S. Postal Workers & Condemns Government plans to shut down Post Offices

The May 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition is outraged by the news that the government is making plans to shut down 3,700 post offices and lay off 220,000 workers of the United States Postal Service (USPS). This is an assault on all workers and communities throughout the country. It is also a vicious anti-union attack. It is racist as it disproportionately affects workers of color. It directly affects the communities the May 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition fights for.

- The Immigrant community in the US relies on the post office for communication with their families far away. The plan to allow the post office to be privatized, which is what this massive layoff and closing of local post offices represents, benefits no one but the 1% who stand to profit from this.
- Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform devised the Postal Reform Act of 2011, H.R. 2309, to run the USPS into the ground. These plans call for \$10.7 billion in austerity measures -- such as ending Saturday delivery, closing post offices and the lay off workers. Rep. Issa is the same legislator who believes that children of the undocumented should not be automatic citizens and pushes to change the constitution to reflect this xenophobic racist view.
- A cabal of shipping corporations, United Parcel Service, Fed Ex, and DHL along with the banks is supporting Rep. Issa, ready to profit from the cutbacks to the US Postal Service. Already 130,000 retirees have not been replaced, making the Post Office work less efficiently, creating no new postal jobs.
- The US Post Office is the only service guaranteed to people by the U.S. Constitution. Cutting its services violates the constitution.
- Nearly half of all USPS workers are workers of color with the largest percentage, 37% African American. Latino/a make up 8% and Asians another 8%. Large numbers are women. These cutbacks are racist and a direct attack on them.
- As Rosa Maria De La Torre, a NYC community organizer said, "Cutting the Postal Service cuts into the heart of the immigrant community. Many immigrants depend on the US Postal Service to send medicines and packages to their loved ones; the attack on the post office affects the entire low income population."
- Many of the post offices slated for closure are in immigrant and low-income urban neighborhoods; the Post Office is their bank. Nine million people buy Postal Money Orders to pay rent and utility bills. 21 million use the post office for international money orders. "A disproportionately large number of these households," the report notes, "are minority and low income." Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC)
- The destruction of the USPS is an attack on youth in the US. With fewer decent jobs available, they will suffer more unemployment, forced to take low waged jobs without benefits or pensions.
- In addition to the effect closing post offices and processing plants will have on the mail service, small businesses in urban and rural areas will suffer.
- The government is once again helping bankers and corporations to advance at the expense of workers. They are lying when they say the USPS is not working.
- The Post Office is a center of our communities, our link to our families and friends.

**SAVE THE POST OFFICE!**

**NO DEPORTATIONS, NO CUTS IN SERVICES!**

For more information and to join the protests to Save the Post Offices visit [www.may1.info](http://www.may1.info) or call 212-633-6646.