



August 17, 2020

Members of the California Congressional Delegation
United States Capitol
First St SE, Washington, DC 20004

RE: Safeguarding the United States Postal Service

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

We respectfully request your immediate intervention to shield the United States Postal Service (USPS) from the direct, ongoing attacks made by the President and his Administration. Our country's existence as a democratic nation rests upon the foundation of a free and fair election. There are no exceptions to conducting such an election, even during the COVID-19 global pandemic. In fact, with less than 80 days until Election Day, we should be refining practical ways to conduct such an election safely and making strategic investments in the critical infrastructure that is necessary to ensure that ballots mailed to voters arrive in a timely manner and that ballots returned by voters will arrive in time to be counted.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage our country to the point where we now have over 160,000 confirmed deaths and 5.2 million confirmed cases. The rates of confirmed cases and confirmed deaths continue to rise unlike anywhere else in the world.

Images from polling places in Wisconsin during the state's primary election in April have served as a case study for elections officials in other states. No voter should have to risk their health – and possibly their lives – in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Fortunately, California can and should serve as a blueprint for the rest of the country on how to conduct a safe, accurate, and accessible election in the COVID-19 era. Even before the pandemic, California had some of the strongest safeguards in place, including:

- 1) Requiring county elections officials to begin mailing ballots and other required materials to voters no later than 29 days before the day of the election;
- 2) Allowing an elections official, whenever there are 250 or fewer persons registered to vote in any precinct, to furnish each voter with a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot along with a statement that there will be no polling place for the election; and
- 3) Specifying that a VBM ballot is timely cast if it is voted on or before election day and, if returned by mail, is mailed by Election Day and received by the voter's elections official via the USPS, or a

bona fide private mail delivery company, no later than 3 days after election day (as discussed below, this deadline has been extended).

These provisions evidence the critical role of the USPS to our electoral process in California. In California, we value the role that our neighbors, community members, and veterans play as part of the 600,000-member workforce at the USPS. In response to the pandemic, the California Legislature, Secretary of State, and Governor worked together to strengthen these safeguards for the November 3, 2020 general election. Under the new laws:

- 1) County elections officials will mail a VBM ballot to every registered active voter for the November 3, 2020, general election.
- 2) To further ensure the safety of USPS workers, elections workers, and voters, the deadline by which a VBM ballot that is mailed on or before Election Day must be received by the county elections official was extended to the 17th day after Election Day.
- 3) Voters will be able to track and receive notifications on the status of their VBM ballot.
- 4) Counties may consolidate physical polling places, but must have extended early voting polling locations starting the Saturday before the election and must place secure ballot drop boxes within communities beginning 28 days before the election.

Instead of fully supporting the USPS, which is the most popular agency in the federal government, the President and his Administration have intentionally attacked and sabotaged it. Earlier this week, the President indicated funding for the USPS was being withheld because, “[...] that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it.” His interference is undeniable.

Elections have occurred during world wars, public health epidemics, and economic depressions. However, never has a sitting President of the United States so openly launched an assault on the right to participate in a free, fair, and safe election. We urge you as members of the California Congressional Delegation to deliver the emergency funding needed by the USPS before the November 3, 2020, general election.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Respectfully,



TODD GLORIA
Assemblymember, 78th District



MARC BERMAN
Assemblymember, 24th District



RICHARD BLOOM
Assemblymember, 50th District



MONIQUE LIMON
Assemblymember, 37th District



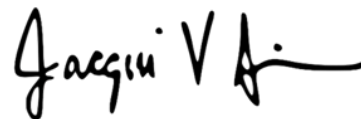
WENDY CARRILLO
Assemblymember, 51st District



TOM DALY
Assemblymember, 69th District



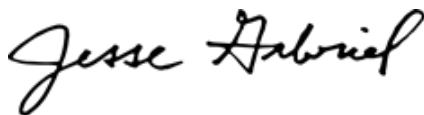
LORENA GONZALEZ
Assemblymember, 80th District



JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 44th District



DAVID CHIU
Assemblymember, 17th District



JESSE GABRIEL
Assemblymember, 45th District



LAURA FRIEDMAN
Assemblymember, 43rd District



SUSAN EGGMAN
Assemblymember, 13th District



ASH KALRA
Assemblymember, 27th District



MIKE GIPSON
Assemblymember, 64th District



EVAN LOW
Assemblymember, 28th District



EDUARDO GARCIA
Assemblymember, 56th District



PATRICK O'DONNELL
Assemblymember, 70th District



MARK STONE
Assemblymember, 29th District



KEVIN MULLIN
Assemblymember, 22nd District



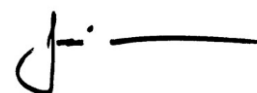
JIM WOOD
Assemblymember, 2nd District



ROBERT RIVAS
Assemblymember, 30th District



BUFFY WICKS
Assemblymember, 15th District



JOSE MEDINA
Assemblymember, 61st District

KEN COOLEY
Assemblymember, 8th District

BRIAN MAIENSCHIN
Assemblymember, 77th District

MARC LEVINE
Assemblymember, 10th District

ELOISE REYES
Assemblymember, 47th District

CRISTINA GARCIA
Assemblymember, 58th District

TASHA BOERNER-HORVATH
Assemblymember, 76th District

SHARON QUIRK-SILVA
Assemblymember, 65th District

JAMES RAMOS
Assemblymember, 40th District

BILL QUIRK
Assemblymember, 20th District

KANSEN CHU
Assemblymember, 25th District

COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS
Assemblymember, 74th District

SYDNEY KAMLAGER
Assemblymember, 54th District

REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN
Assemblymember, 16th District

ADRIN NAZARIAN
Assemblymember, 46th District

JIM FRAZIER
Assemblymember, 11th District

RUDY SALAS
Assemblymember, 32nd District

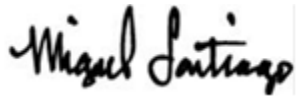
SABRINA CERVANTES
Assemblymember, 60th District

FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assemblymember, 52nd District

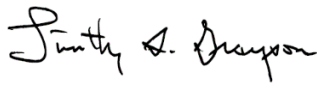
KEVIN MCCARTY
Assemblymember, 7th District

AUTUMN BURKE
Assemblymember, 62nd District

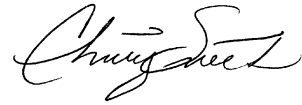
ED CHAU
Assemblymember, 49th District



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assemblymember, 53rd District



TIMOTHY S. GRAYSON
Assemblymember, 14th District



CHRISTY SMITH
Assemblymember, 38th District



IAN CALDERON
Assemblymember, 57th District



AL MURATSUCHI
Assemblymember, 66th District



CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assemblymember, 4th District



PHIL TING
Assemblymember, 19th District



ROB BONTA
Assemblymember, 18th District



LUZ RIVAS
Assemblymember, 39th District



REGINALD BYRON JONES-SAWYER
Assemblymember, 59th District