



Submitted

to

PCFederalRegister@usps.gov

July 2, 2026

Director, Product Classification
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446
Washington, DC 20260-5015

Re: Comments on Proposed Rule, “Ballot Mail for Federal Elections,” 91 Fed. Reg. 32915 (June 2, 2026), Docket No. USPS-2026-10968

Dear Director:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is one of the nation’s oldest and largest gender equity organizations. Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW urges the U.S. Postal Service to withdraw this proposed rule.

Nearly 1 in 3 voters cast a ballot by mail in 2024. For older women, rural voters, voters with disabilities, and people balancing work, caregiving, and health needs, mail voting is not a convenience. It is how they participate. This rule puts that participation at risk.

USPS should deliver ballots, not screen them. For generations, USPS has delivered lawfully addressed mail without deciding who is entitled to receive it. This rule changes that. It would let USPS reject a ballot before it ever reaches a voter, simply because the voter’s name is not yet on a new federal list. USPS has never played this gatekeeping role, and it should not take it on now, months before a federal election.

The new lists will leave eligible voters out, through no fault of their own. States must finalize their voter lists at least 30 days before Election Day. But in most states, people can still register, update a registration, or request a ballot after that deadline. A voter who moves, marries, or registers late, which happens often and disproportionately affects women who change their name after marriage or divorce, could be shut out of the mail simply because the federal list has not caught up. The rule offers no guarantee that a missed voter can be added in time, and no clear recourse for a voter whose ballot is turned away.

Women carry a disproportionate share of the risk. Women continue to shoulder most caregiving responsibilities. AAUW members and the communities we serve include caregivers for children, spouses, and parents, alongside students, older women, rural voters, and people with disabilities, all of whom rely on mail ballots when getting to a polling place is difficult. This rule adds new uncertainty to a system many of them depend on.



The timing compounds the harm. USPS trains staff and coordinates with election officials year-round to prepare for a federal election. A rule finalized only months before November 2026, on a matter this significant, gives election officials little time to adjust systems and gives USPS little time to train staff or explain the new process to voters. Confusion this close to an election erodes trust in the process, regardless of intent.

The rule raises new privacy risks. It would create a new federal system tying voters' names to their ballot mail, built to help identify and investigate individual voters. The proposal does not explain how that data will be protected, how errors will be corrected, or what recourse a voter has if a ballot is blocked because of a data mismatch.

USPS has a legal duty to serve everyone, not to pick and choose. Federal law requires USPS to "provide prompt, reliable, and efficient" service to all communities and prohibits "undue or unreasonable discrimination among users of the mails" (39 U.S.C. §§ 101(a), 403(c)). A rule that lets USPS refuse lawfully addressed, properly stamped ballot mail from state election officials is inconsistent with that duty.

AAUW supports secure elections and reliable mail delivery. This rule advances neither goal. It creates a new mechanism for blocking ballots, built on lists that will inevitably be incomplete, on a timeline that invites confusion right before a federal election. For these reasons, AAUW urges USPS to withdraw the proposed rule in full.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Meghan Kissell".

Meghan Kissell, MSW
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy