

WHO IS NAPUS?

The National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) was established in 1898 as an association; it represents the managers-in-charge of the approximately 27,000 post offices throughout the nation. NAPUS comprises 39,000 active and retired Postmasters.

39 USC 1004(i)(3) defines a Postmaster as “an individual who is the manager in charge of the operations of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors.”

Post Offices can be a small one person operation, located in rural America, or can be a large postal operation with multiple stations, branches and mail processing units, located in an urban or suburban setting. The majority of NAPUS members work in small to medium-sized facilities.

Postmaster-guided post offices ensure high quality mail services that Americans expect and demand. Onsite and accessible Postmasters ensure postal accountability to the community that the Post Office serves.

The current NAPUS President is Robert Rapoza, Postmaster of Honokaa, Hawaii; and the present National Secretary-Treasurer is Ruth Cauble, Postmaster of Benton, Illinois. Together they advocate for Postmasters at US Postal Headquarters, the Postal Regulatory Commission and before Congress and the White House.

NAPUS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The NAPUS Government Relations Department communicates frequently with Members of Congress, their staff members, and the Administration. Heading up the Department is Bob Levi, a Capitol Hill veteran who has worked on Committee staff and for two different postal employee organizations.

Members of Congress and congressional staff can reach Bob Levi at NAPUS Headquarters at 703-683-9027, or at blevi@napus.org.

In addition, each state has a Legislative Chair who can serve as an on-the-ground “postal resource” for your congressional office.



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NAPUS Legislative Rally at US Capitol

Helping Connect Communities and Businesses

NAPUS' LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

At the beginning of each year, NAPUS constructs its legislative priorities. Generally, the issues fall within one of four categories

1. **Postal Viability** – The U.S. Postal Service is the most visible, respected and effective government service. It binds communities and businesses together, no matter the distance or demographics. The “postal industry” accounts for about 9% of the US gross domestic product (≈ \$1 trillion), and supports an 9 million employee industry. The viability of the USPS is being challenged by a grossly inflated charge to pre-fund its retiree health care. In addition, the USPS needs greater latitude in offering new products and services.

NAPUS has worked with the Postal Service in developing constructive and far-reaching strategies to maintain and enhance our Nation's universal mail system. In addition, NAPUS advocates on behalf of a strong and universal USPS to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Government Accountability Office, and others to help develop.

2. **Community Protection** – The law guarantees the due process rights of communities facing the possible closure of their post office. In part, the USPS is required to notify a community if their post office is targeted for closure, and establishes

an appeals procedure to guarantee that the USPS complies with the closing process. To help communities, we publish: *A NAPUS Action Guide for Preventing the Closing or Consolidation of Your Post Office* (<http://www.napus.org/napus%20action%20guide.pdf>). NAPUS opposes legislation that would undermine community due process rights.

3. **Postmaster Protection** – Postmasters participate in a legally defined health and retirement program. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program provides active and retired postmasters with health insurance. Depending upon when a postmaster began working, the individual may participate in either the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employee Retirement System. Both programs require contributions from the postmaster and the USPS. However, CSRS is a defined benefit plan, and FERS is a hybrid plan. FERS includes Social Security, a personal savings account, and a modest defined benefit component. NAPUS opposes legislation to reduce health coverage or retirement protection
4. **Budget Issues** – During the 1980s and early 1990s the USPS was a sought after “cash-cow”, helping to pay down the federal deficit. In part, the USPS was taken “off-budget” to insulate from budgetary issues that were unrelated postal operations. In 2002, with the discovery that the USPS was “over-funding” its pension obligation, the USPS was unable to fully access the balance of its projected overpayment due to its impact on the federal budget. Moreover, a fair and equitable resolution of the retiree health prefunding issue is captive to arcane

budget rules. NAPUS would support extracting the USPS from budget politics, enabling a fair and just treatment of the government service, its employees, and its customers.

QUICK POSTAL FACTS

- The USPS had an operating budget of \$72 billion, net loss of \$8.5 billion, and a debt of \$12 billion.
- The USPS has reduced its expenses by a whopping \$10 billion over the past 2 years, and the trimming of almost 103,000 postal positions over the past 3 years.
- Over the past 6 years, the USPS could have broken even if it was not required to prefund retiree health benefits – \$5.5 billion.
- 83% of Americans awarded the USPS a positive review.
- The USPS can boast an over 96% on-time delivery rate for overnight First Class Mail.
- The USPS delivery network includes 150 million home and businesses.
- 86% of Americans oppose closing Post Offices (*Gallup Poll 3/10*)
- U.S. postage remains one of the least expensive among industrialized nations.

MORE INFORMATION

For the latest information, please check out the *E-NAPUS Legislative Newsletter*: <http://www.napus.org/government-relations/e-napus-newsletter/>.