



NAACP



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On Behalf of NAACP, Public Citizen and LDF Settle Lawsuit Against U.S. Postal Service to Ensure Timely Delivery of Mailed Ballots

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Public Citizen Litigation Group and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) announced today a settlement in the case *NAACP v. United States Postal Service*. The lawsuit, pending in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was filed in the summer of 2020 to challenge U.S. Postal Service delivery delays and inadequate measures to ensure timely delivery of mail-in ballots.

The NAACP, the nation's largest and oldest civil rights grassroots organization, and its members rely on the timely delivery of mail for a variety of important functions, including mail-in voting. Under the settlement, the Postal Service agreed to meet with NAACP in the months before each national primary and general election through 2028 and to provide weekly reports on service performance during the six weeks leading up to general elections.

The Postal Service also will issue guidance documents to address its plans for prioritizing the monitoring and timely delivery of election mail for the national general elections through 2028. The parties expect that these measures will be similar to the "extraordinary measures" used in the weeks leading up to the 2020 general election. Those measures, which the court required the Postal Service to implement in response to motions by the NAACP, helped to ensure that the vast majority of mailed ballots were delivered to the boards of elections in time to be counted.

"The litigation against the Postal Service during last year's election season had a significant impact on the timely delivery of mailed ballots. Through this settlement, we are putting in place mechanisms to ensure that the Postal Service has procedures to handle election mail, to avoid the need for similar lawsuits every two years," said **Allison Zieve, director of Public Citizen Litigation Group**. "The settlement helps to guard against politicization of mail delivery and facilitates citizens' ability to exercise the fundamental right to vote."

“This is a historic settlement in a historic case,” said **Sam Spital, LDF’s Director of Litigation**. “Tens of millions of Americans rely on mail-in voting to participate in our democracy, and they depend upon the prompt and reliable delivery of election mail for their voice to be heard. We filed this suit because of serious concerns that delays in mail delivery could effectively disenfranchise voters in the November 2020 election, and our suit resulted in USPS implementing court-ordered ‘extraordinary measures’ for the timely delivery of ballots. Today’s settlement ensures that USPS will similarly undertake efforts to prioritize the delivery of ballots in future national elections.”

Provisions of the settlement requiring the Postal Service to publicly issue guidance documents, to meet with NAACP, and to provide data will be enforceable in court.

“When we fight, we win. Ballot box or mailbox, a vote is a vote, and each vote is sacred. No one, including the USPS, should ever stand in the way of our constitutional rights. With the NAACP’s ability to now monitor the performance of the USPS during national elections, we will ensure that the right to vote is protected for all citizens, including those often suppressed. This is an unprecedented victory for civil rights,” said **Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP**.

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Public Citizen Litigation Group is the litigating arm of Public Citizen, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that champions the public interest in the halls of power. Public Citizen defends democracy, resists corporate power, and works to ensure that government works for the people. Through its Litigation Group, Public Citizen litigates to protect the rights of consumers to access the courts and to stop rollbacks of important consumer, worker, and environmental protections. Follow Public Citizen on [Twitter](#).

Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation’s first civil and human rights law organization. LDF has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF’s Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF. Follow LDF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP.