

League Position Paper



Closing Rural Post Offices

Updated January 23, 2012

Issue:	Closing Rural Post Office
Bill Numbers & Sponsors:	There are a variety of provisions in multiple bills in Congress that would prevent or limit the Postal Service's ability to close small rural post offices.
LEAGUE Position:	The LEAGUE vigorously opposes the closing of small post offices and supports legislative provisions that would further that position.
Status:	Urgent.

Facts: Some have suggested that the answer to the Postal Service's financial difficulties is to close thousands of post offices. Many senators and members of Congress from rural areas think otherwise.

Nevertheless, in order to placate those urban representatives, the Postal Service has tried to close several thousand small rural post offices, despite the fact that closing the smallest 10,000 post offices would save the Postal Service only 7/10ths of 1 percent of its budget, and that closing the 3,600 post offices that the Postal Service has sought to close over the last year would save only 3/10ths of 1 percent of its budget.

Understanding the harmful effects that these closings would have on rural America, the United States Senate has forced the Postal Service to put a five-month moratorium on the closing of small rural post offices. That moratorium will expire on May 15, 2012.

Arguments: As the facts show, closing rural post offices results in no appreciable cost savings to the Postal Service and will devastate rural America. The Senate has recognized this. The House has yet to do so.

As we all struggle to deal with the current financial situation of the Postal Service the health of rural America must remain at the forefront of the debate. Hence, any legislative "solution" to the Postal Service's difficulties must preserve the breadth and depth of America's rural post office network. Any other result will harm America's rural economy and America's rural communities. If a solution is not in place by May 15, the moratorium needs to be extended.

Analysis and Talking Points: See the LEAGUE's separate talking points.

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