

The Dark Truth Behind the GOP's War on the Postal Service

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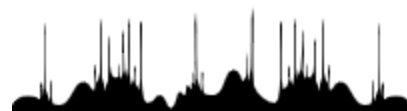


Photo by [Tareq Ismail](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The GOP has just launched its latest offensive in an all-out war against the United States Postal Service. After being accused of slowing down the mail intentionally, Trump's latest kleptocrat and postmaster general Louis DeJoy committed his own Friday Night Massacre on August 7th, firing several top USPS executives and reshuffling more than two dozen other high-level officials.

While this latest development has caught the eye of the press and the ire of Democrats (or anyone with a conscience), it is far from the beginning of the GOP's war on the United States Postal Service.

Many people are theorizing that the takeover of the postal service is a direct attempt to sabotage mail-in voting. That is likely true, but it is far from the whole story. The Republican Party, and in some instances even the Democrats, have been in the trenches fighting the postal service for a long time.

Republicans vs. the USPS

Let's head back to December 2006 for a minute and set the scene.

You've just heard Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" for the 314th time and it honestly still kinda slaps. Everyone is wearing enormous scarves. Donald Trump is just that "you're fired" douchebag on *The Apprentice*.

I'll let you just savor that part for a moment.

America is also balls deep in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Republicans are working to cripple the United States Postal Service.

On December 7, House Republican and complete asshole Tom Davis introduced the "Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act." If you know Republicans, you know this bill was absolutely vile.

In short, the bill requires the United States Postal Service to fully fund retirement healthcare benefits for the next 75 years. In effect, that means the USPS had until 2016 to fully fund retirement healthcare benefits to future employees who may not even be born until 2057.

While you can probably rest assured that some grocery store will still be playing "Crazy" in 2057, it is a batshit burden to put on any business. One wordsmith for *The Roanoke Times* called the PAEA "one of the most insane laws Congress ever enacted."

The USPS estimates that pre-paying these benefits costs upwards of \$5.5 billion per year. After the impact of COVID-19 decimated postal traffic, the postal service is embroiled in a very avoidable financial crisis. It has not recorded a profit since the bill was signed in 2006.



Pictured: Republican leadership after dreaming up the PEAE

But why?

This isn't to say that Donald Trump *isn't* trying to slow down the mail to sabotage the election. It sounds like something he'd do. But if that were the only reason, why has the GOP been pushing the USPS towards a cliff for the last dozen years?

Let's take a look at a few bits of info about the postal service.

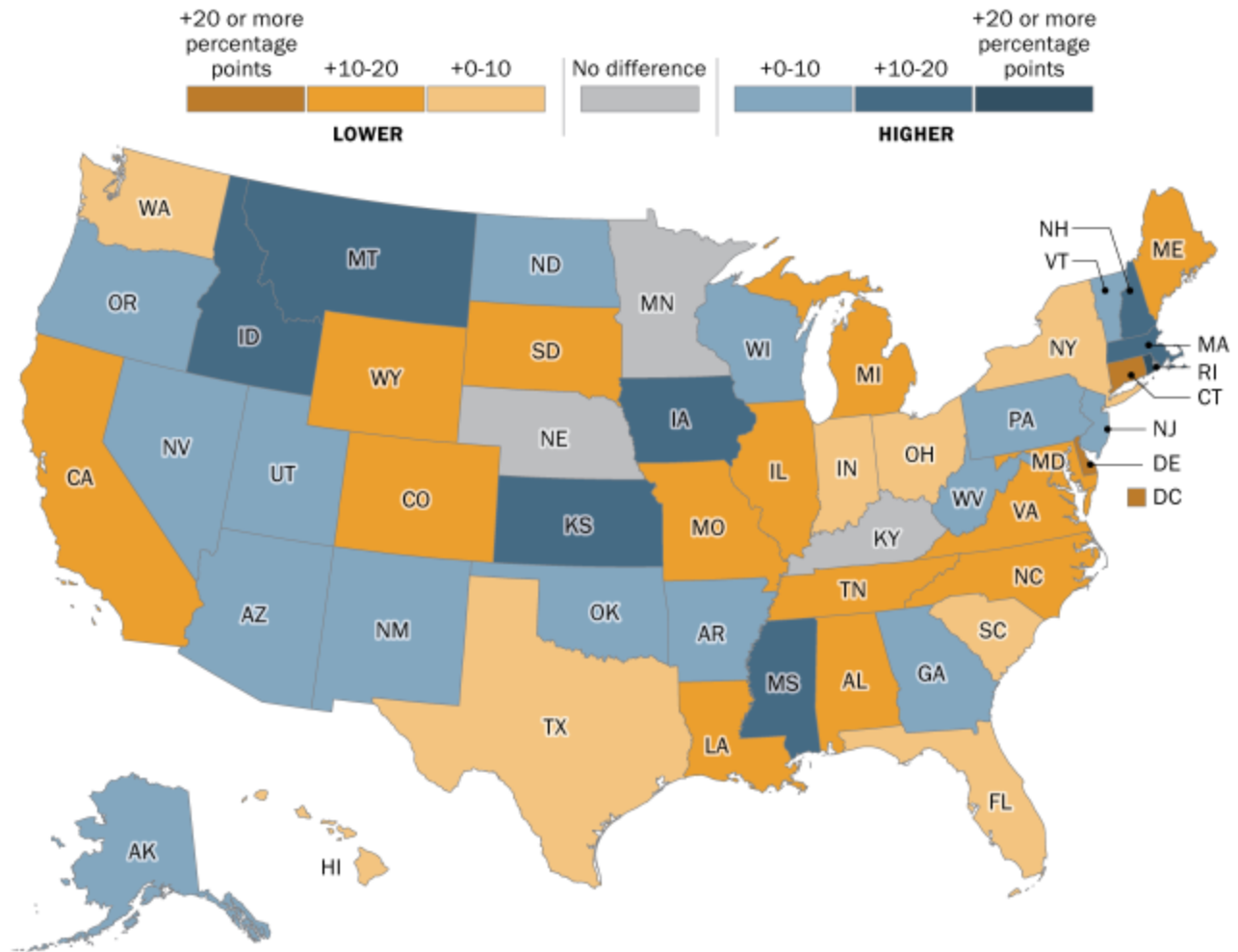
The average annual salary for a USPS employee is just over \$60,000. That's almost twice the median salary in the United States of just over \$33,000. Postal employees also enjoy benefits that are on par with many white-collar jobs. However, many USPS jobs do not require a higher-education degree.

That means that people can get a job that can, in many places, feed a family without needing to go into debt to get an advanced degree. You can see why this might be an issue for Republican leadership.

But the real reason for Republicans' scorn is who gets these jobs. Take a look at this chart from the Pew Research Group on the demographics of postal service employees:

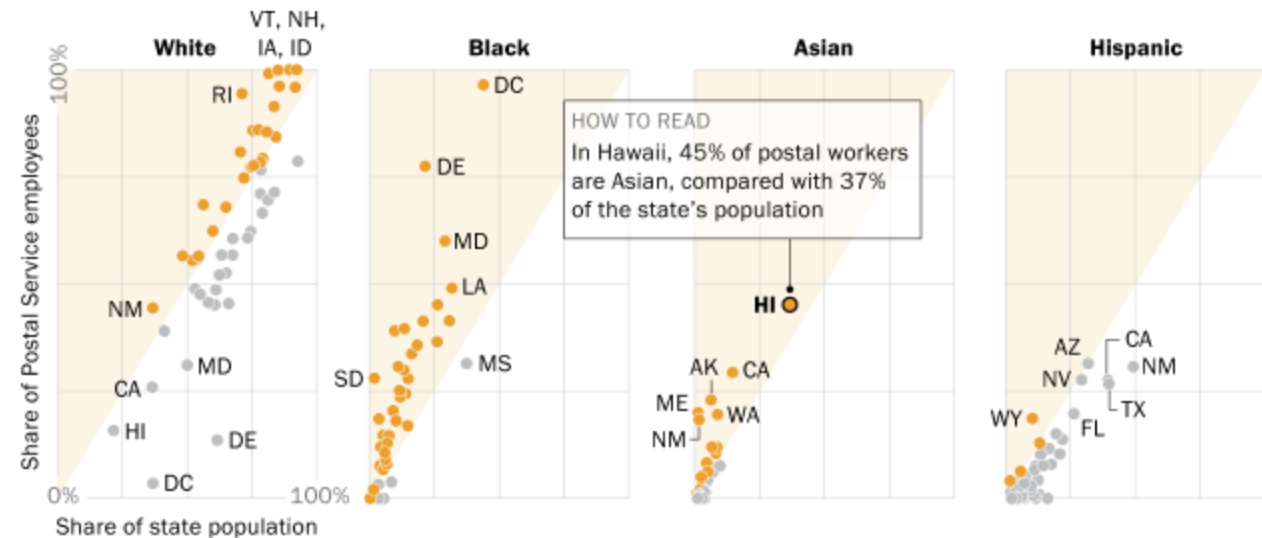
How racial and ethnic makeup of postal workers compares with state populations

Share of postal workers who are white is ___ higher/lower than whites as % of state's population



% of postal workers vs. % of general population

● Racial or ethnic group makes up a larger or equal share of Postal Service employees than its share of state population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Pew has an excellent set of charts [detailing the finer points of the Postal Service here.](#)

The postal service is more racially diverse than the country as a whole. Hurting the postal service disproportionately affects non-white folks more than it does white people.

Destroying the postal service would eliminate well-paying jobs with benefits, retirement plans, and a career track for over 600,000 people. Those people are, statistically, more likely to be non-white than your average American.

If you guessed “racism” for the reason the GOP hates the post office, congratulations on passing America 101. The GOP doesn’t have a whole lot of principles. However, keeping poor people poor and fucking over non-white people are two things Republicans will always stand up for.

Supastarr Deez

Supastarr Deez is a content creator, social justice enthusiast, and hunter/gatherer. When he’s not writing you can find him cooking delicious meals for friends and family, searching out the finest coffee in your town, and trying to remember to breathe.



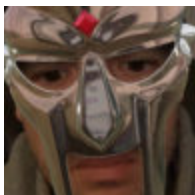
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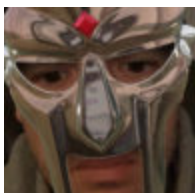


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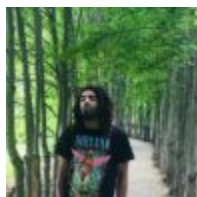


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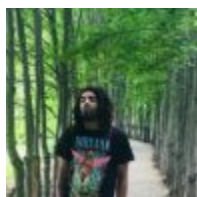


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