

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2026

David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Benjamin Kuo
Senior Vice President of Facilities and Infrastructure
United States Postal Service
Office of the Consumer Advocate
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Carissa Shea
District Manager, MA-RI
United States Postal Service
25 Dorchester Ave, RM 4003
Boston, MA 02205

Dear Postmaster General Steiner, Vice President Kuo, and District Manager Shea,

We strongly urge you to cease your campaign to close post offices in Massachusetts. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has recently indicated its intention to close post offices in the city of Watertown and in the Allston and Fields Corner neighborhoods of Boston, which is unacceptable. We urge you to reverse course and maintain adequate post office storefronts in communities across Massachusetts.

Unfortunately, this is not a new issue. USPS has spent years trying to cut costs by degrading services in Massachusetts. Since 2023, members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation have demanded the reopening of several post office locations that you have proposed closing—from Shutesbury to Brockton, from Medway to Mission Hill. We are grateful that USPS has maintained or made commitments to reopen locations in each of these communities and in others. That said, no community should go without an easily accessible and adequate post office presence, but today, some do.

In Watertown, USPS has had two years to find a solution. We wrote to you in 2024 in alarm over the fact that USPS's "temporary closure" of the Watertown Square Post Office was accompanied by no plan to reopen or to alleviate service disruptions. Now, our fears have come

true; notices recently went out that USPS has given up and would be abandoning Watertown Square entirely.¹ That would leave the Watertown community without a post office location nearby, without a post office offering Saturday service, and without a USPS storefront in the fastest growing neighborhood in Watertown. This cannot be allowed to happen, and we urge you to cease your termination proceedings and find a new location in the Square.

Likewise, in Allston, we have been advocating for years to reopen the post office at 47 Harvard Avenue that was closed due to structural concerns in December 2019. Most recently, on June 5, 2026, the federal delegation wrote to USPS calling on you to uphold your 2025 written commitment to reopen a location in Allston, a commitment USPS is now considering betraying through your proposal to terminate a postal presence in Allston. The local community needs and deserves an adequate postal presence. Accordingly, we urge you to cease these termination proceedings, go back to negotiations with the property owner at 47 Harvard Avenue, and restore a post office to the Allston neighborhood.

In both of these instances—in Watertown and in Allston—USPS was required as part of the termination proceeding process to hold public hearings with the impacted community. These hearings were woefully inadequate. They were sham convenings hosted virtually, in the middle of the day, without any ability for a community representative or any member of the public to speak. Additionally, USPS failed to appear before the Boston City Council hearing on September 22, 2026 regarding the Allston Post Office closure, despite the Council's request that a representative appear. This is the second instance of such brazen disregard for the community. In 2024, the Council held a similar hearing and USPS failed to send a representative, instead chastising city councilors for doing their jobs to serve the people of Boston. It is outrageous that USPS management has repeatedly failed to answer to and consider the input of the public it is supposed to serve.

This record does not bode well as Massachusetts receives more news about potential post office closures. In Fields Corner, for example, USPS has announced that it will temporarily close the local post office after failing to sign a new lease.² This is extremely troubling. We have also heard from the American Postal Workers Union that the leases of other post offices—including in Springfield and elsewhere—are in jeopardy, and post offices in communities like Harvard have been closed for many years.

This issue goes beyond specific post office locations and appears to be a systemic and seemingly growing issue across Massachusetts. From our experience advocating to keep adequate postal service in Massachusetts, it appears that USPS is engaged in a coordinated campaign to leverage lease renewals and construction projects as excuses to force unwanted and inappropriate closures. USPS fails to negotiate leases on good terms, uses its inability to come to

¹ Charlie Breitrose, *Ways to Weigh in on Future of Watertown Square Post Office*, Watertown News (August 27, 2026), <https://watertownmanews.com/2026/08/27/ways-to-weigh-in-on-future-of-watertown-square-post-office/>.

² Trea Lavery, *A Boston post office is closing this month as its lease expires*, MassLive (October 1, 2027), <https://www.masslive.com/boston/2026/10/a-boston-post-office-is-closing-this-month-as-its-lease-expires.html>.

a lease agreement as a pretext to declare an emergency, and then temporarily suspends a post office branch. It then leverages these temporary suspensions into proceedings to permanently shut down the post office location. The result is fewer communities with adequate postal presence, worse postal service, and profoundly negative impacts on residents and businesses who rely on their local post office locations.

In light of all the preceding—and the lack of adequate responses to previous inquiries—we write to request that USPS respond in writing by October 20, 2026 to the following requests that it:

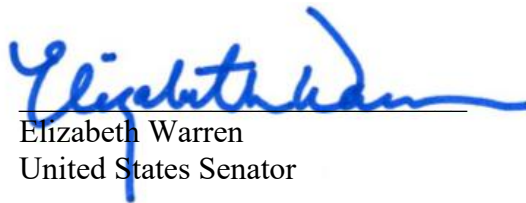
1. Find a solution that restores local postal service to Watertown Square and Allston and ceases terminations of the Fields Corner and other post office locations;
2. Provide our offices with a full and updated accounting of all post office locations in Massachusetts, including identifying post offices owned by USPS or leased; when all leases are up for renewal; and a plan to ensure that all lease negotiations are commenced sufficiently prior to the lease expiration date, with clear lines of communication with the lessor;
3. Host true public hearings in the communities impacted by your termination proposals—in-person, after work hours, where residents are given the opportunity to voice their opinions—including promptly in Watertown and Allston;
4. Enter into the public record for the Watertown Square and Allston termination proceedings this letter and all letters we and other elected officials have sent to USPS, and all testimony from the Boston City Council's September 22, 2026 hearing on the Allston Post Office; and
5. Provide our offices any and all USPS reports arising out of your facilities search and review of the Watertown Square and Allston post offices.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



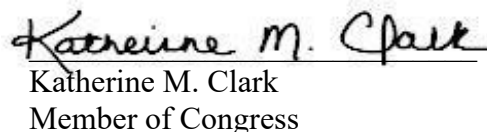
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



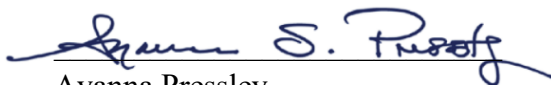
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress