



May 4, 2026

Mr. Dale Kennedy
Director, Product Classification
US Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446
Washington, DC 20260

Submitted electronically via regulations.gov

Re: Revised Mailing Standards for Firearms, amending Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Publication 52)

Dear Director Kennedy,

The League of Women Voters (the League) is a 106-year-old nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that everyone is represented in our democracy. We are a grassroots group comprised of more than one million members and supporters across more than 800 local and state Leagues nationwide. The League focuses on advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to achieve our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. We base our work on policy positions developed from multi-year studies and derived through consensus among League membership to ensure our advocacy reflects best practices and a nationwide perspective.

The League submits these comments in opposition to the suggested amendments to Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*. The amendments included in the proposed rule will weaken critical safeguards on firearm access and increase the national risk of gun violence, which directly impacts the safety, participation, and representation of voters in our democracy.

The League and Gun Policy

The League believes that individual rights protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. Concurrently, the League also believes that the proliferation of semi-automatic/automatic weapons in the United States is a major health and public safety threat to its citizens. Furthermore, we support strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.

The League's Concerns with Proposed Amendments to Publication 52



The proposed amendments to Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Publication 52) would significantly expand the scope of mailable firearms by allowing handguns to be sent through the USPS, and would allow unlicensed individuals to mail handguns, rifles, and shotguns to others. This would weaken long-standing safeguards that help to maintain transparency, accountability, and traceability.

Under current federal law, people are [prohibited from mailing handguns and other concealable firearms through the USPS](#). Therefore, firearms must be shipped through common carriers like [FedEx](#) or [UPS](#), which limit these transactions to federally licensed gun manufacturers, importers, and dealers (Federal Firearm Licensees, or FFLs). This system aims to protect the public, as FFLs are required to run a background check on whoever picks up the firearm to ensure that they can legally possess it.

In contrast, the proposed changes would create new risks by allowing all lawful firearms (not just rifles and shotguns) to be mailed, including between unlicensed entities without background checks or eligibility verifications. The proposed changes undermine a key section of the 1968 [Gun Control Act](#), which makes it unlawful for certain categories of people to ship, transport, receive, or possess firearms or ammunition. This includes persons who are fugitives, have a history of mental illness, or are subject to restraining orders, perpetrators of harassing and stalking, and people convicted of domestic violence, among others.

America already struggles with gun violence. The US gun homicide rate is [26 times](#) that of other high-income countries. Globally, the US [ranks](#) at the 93rd percentile for firearm mortality, 96th percentile for firearm mortality among women, and 92nd percentile for firearm mortality among children and teens. This is especially an issue in the context of people with mental health issues or a history of domestic violence, with [27,300 people having died by firearm suicide in 2023](#), and [nearly half of all female intimate partner homicides being by a firearm](#). The proposed rule would make handguns and concealable firearms more easily accessible to such individuals who already pose a threat to themselves and/or others.

The League is particularly concerned about how this rule change, and the resultant firearm proliferation, could impact voters' sense of and actual safety at the polls. The presence or threat of gun violence has been [shown to intimidate voters](#), create unsafe conditions for election workers, and discourage civic engagement altogether. Protecting voters and the electoral process from potential violence and intimidation is essential to a functioning democracy. Any rule change that weakens safeguards on the circulation of firearms undermines the ability of all people to participate fully in civic life.

Conclusion

The League opposes the proposed rule "Revised Mailing Standards for Firearms," as it weakens critical safeguards on firearm access and increases the risk of gun violence, which directly impacts the safety, participation, and ultimately, representation of voters in our democracy. By expanding the kinds of firearms that can be mailed and reducing



existing safeguards on who can do so, the proposed rule change creates new risks that could undermine public safety and civic engagement. It undermines the precautions required of FFLs, who must conduct background checks and maintain records for purposes of accountability and traceability. It also undermines part of the *Gun Control Act* of 1968 by creating new pathways for firearms to be transferred outside of the existing legal safeguards, increasing the likelihood that guns will end up in the hands of those who are prohibited from possessing them.

Strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of firearms are essential to preserving a democratic system where all people can participate freely without fear, especially considering our country's ongoing struggles with gun violence in private and public spaces. For these reasons, The League urges USPS to protect our nation by rejecting the amendments in the proposed rule.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kristen Kern, Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager, at kkern@lwv.org, if you have any questions about the League's recommendation.