

United States Postal Service Board of Governors



Thurgood Marshall Jr.

Elected Chair by board in December of 2011.
Appointed by Bush on 12/15/06. His term expires 12/8/12.

Marshall is a partner and corporate lawyer at Bingham McCutchen, which serves the interest of large corporations and provides “labor, employment and benefits services to management clients.” Marshall is also on the board of the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the largest private prison company in the US. The CCA lobbies to privatize public corrections.



Louis J. Giuliano

Appointed by Bush on 11/3/04. Term expires 12/8/12.

Giuliano is a former CEO of ITT Industries and is currently on the Board of Directors for ServiceMaster, who describe themselves, as providing, “outsourcing services” such as lawn care, cleaning, pest control, etc., for residential and commercial customers.



Ellen C. Williams

Appointed by Bush in August of 2006. Term expires 12/8/14.

Williams, a Republican, is the owner of Capital Network in Kentucky, a government affairs and lobbying firm that serves the interest of corporations. Williams has recently lobbied for the gas industry and travel industry associations and corporations.

Vacancy - Last held by **Allan Kessler** who resigned 7/31/11 because of a scandal involving Kessler applying influence for his business friends. Kessler was originally appointed by Clinton in 2000.

Vacancy - Last held by **Carolyn L. Gallagher** whose term expired in December of 2009. A member of Bush’s Commission on the USPS, whose recommendations included consolidations and cutting wages.



Mickey D. Barnett

Vice-Chair of Board.
Appointed by Bush on 8/17/06. Term expires 12/8/13.

Barnett, a Republican, is a self-employed attorney and lobbyist who has advocated for such groups as the payday loan industry, gambling industry, and the Corrections Corporation of America (private prison). Barnett has worked with corporate sponsored groups such as the Heritage Foundation, National Right to Work Committee, and Americans for Tax Reform



James H. Bilbray

Appointed by Bush on 8/17/06. Term expires 12/8/15.

Bilbray, a Democrat, is an attorney with the corporate friendly firm of Kaempfer Crowell. Bilbray is a former member of the US House of Representatives representing Nevada. In 2005, Bilbray was a member of the Base Closing and Realignment Commission, which is viewed as a possible model for closing plants at USPS.



Dennis J. Toner

Appointed by Obama on 9/17/10. Term expires 12/8/12.

Toner directed policy, public and political affairs for then-Senator and now-VP Joseph Biden, Jr., for 34 years. Toner then started Horizon Advisors, which provides “guidance and strategic planning to private clients and non-profit organizations.”

Vacancy - Last held by **James Miller III**, whose term expired in December of 2010, but was kept another year by Obama. Miller has openly called for privatization of the Post Office and was the chair of the Board when the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) was signed by Bush in 2006. Miller has been nominated again by Obama.



Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General.
Selected 10/25/10.

Donahoe, has been with the USPS for 35 years starting in Pittsburgh, PA. His previous job was a dual assignment of Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Operating Officer. Over the years, Donahoe worked very closely with the corporations through the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC), the Mailing Industry Task Force, Postal Customer Council, conferences, and meetings with representatives from corporate associations such as the Association for Postal Commerce, the Mailers Council, etc.

President Obama's Nominations for Board of Governors

10/14/09 - Nominated **Allan Kessler**, who resigned 7/31/11 (see vacancy)

1/29/10 - Nominated **Dennis J. Toner**, VP Joe Biden's right hand man who is now on the board.

1/29/10 - Nominated **Paul Steven Miller**, a former EEOC commissioner and Obama assistant to replace Carolyn L. Gallagher, but his nomination was withdrawn without explanation on 6/8/10

3/9/12 - Nominated **Katherine C. Tobin**, who is pending the Senate confirmation process. Tobin was previously appointed to the Board of Governors by Bush in 2006 and left in 2009 to join the Obama administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education. Tobin has worked for the Carnegie Corporation, IBM and Hewlett-Packard.

3/27/12 - Nominated **James C. Miller III** (see vacancy), who is pending the Senate confirmation process.



Ronald A. Stroman
Deputy Postmaster General. Appointed in March of 2011.

Stroman, just prior to coming to the USPS, was a staff director on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which oversees the USPS. Prior to working for the House Committee, Stroman worked for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which serves Congress and oversees the Post Office. The USPS website describes the duties of Stroman at the Post Office as follows, "As DPMG, Stroman works closely with the mailing industry to help strengthen relationships and identify opportunities to improve interactions with postal customers.... He also has the lead role in working with Congress to restructure the prefunding of retiree health benefits, adjust delivery frequency, and gain greater flexibility in aligning the Postal Service processing, distribution and retail networks."

Upcoming Board Vacancies*

12/8/12 - Thurgood Marshall Jr.

12/8/12 - Louis J. Giuliano

12/8/12 - Dennis J. Toner

12/8/13 - Mickey D. Barnett

12/8/14 - Ellen C. Williams

*Governors may continue to serve until a successor is appointed but not for more than one year. Full terms of office are seven years. See, "About the Board of Governors" for more information.

Researcher's Note

This information on the Board of Governors is a work in progress and is intended as brief background information for the union and the public. If you see any mistakes or can think of any additions, please let me know.

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About the Board of Governors

from USPS Web Site

“The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service is comparable to a board of directors of a private corporation. The Board includes nine governors who are appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The nine governors select the postmaster general, who becomes a member of the Board, and those 10 select the deputy postmaster general, who also serves on the Board. The postmaster general serves at the pleasure of the governors for an indefinite term. The deputy postmaster general serves at the pleasure of the governors and the postmaster general.

In 1970, when the Board was established by the Postal Reorganization Act, the governors of the Postal Service were appointed for terms of nine years. The first nine appointments were for staggered terms of one to nine years. Subsequent appointments were made for the full nine years. On December 20, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, P.L. 109-435, which changed the terms of subsequently appointed governors from nine to seven years. The Act also added some professional qualifications for the governors. The governors are chosen to represent the public interest generally and cannot be representatives of special interests. Not more than five of the nine may belong to the same political party. They shall be chosen solely on the basis of their experience in the field of public service, law or accounting or on their demonstrated ability in managing organizations or corporations (in either the public or private sector) of substantial size, except that at least four of the governors shall be chosen solely on the basis of their demonstrated ability in managing organizations or corporations (in either the public or private sector) that employ at least 50,000 employees.

Appointments are made when vacancies occur or for the remainder of unexpired terms. Each governor’s term expires on December 8 of a given year. Governors may continue to serve following expiration of their term or until a successor is appointed but not for more than one year. No person may serve more than two terms as a governor.

The Board directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service, directs and controls its expenditures, reviews its practices, conducts long-range planning and sets policies on all postal matters. The Board takes up matters such as service standards, capital investments and facilities projects exceeding \$25 million. It also approves officer compensation.

To organize and conduct their meetings, a chairman and a vice chairman are elected from among the members of the Board. The governors elect the chairman and the vice chairman. Thurgood Marshall, Jr. is the chairman, and the vice chairman is Mickey D. Barnett. There are three committees: Audit and Finance; Governance, Regulatory and Strategic Planning; and Compensation and Management Resources.

The governors employ a full-time corporate secretary who serves as the primary staff assistant to the Board. The secretary is generally responsible for coordinating the resources of the Postal Service so that the Board fulfills its statutory duties in the most efficient and informed manner possible. Julie S. Moore is the secretary of the Board.

The Board of Governors meets on a regular basis. Meeting locations are generally in Washington, D.C., but may be scheduled in some other city where the members can see firsthand a Postal Service or large mailer’s operation.

All meetings are open to the public unless the Board specifically votes to close all or part of a meeting in line with exemptions permitted by the Government in the Sunshine Act [5 U.S.C. 552b(b)].

Each governor receives \$300 per day for not more than 42 days of meetings each year and travel expenses, in addition to an annual salary of \$30,000. Three vacancies exist on the Board.”