



UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE®



Election Mail Postal Updates

September 21, 2016

Postal Service Commitment

Postmaster General Megan Brennan

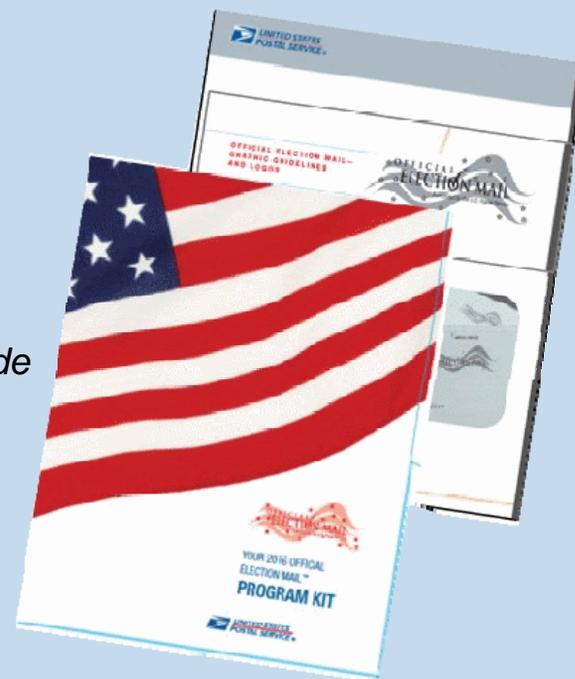
Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman

- Organizational Commitment: Election Mail is a Top Priority!
- Voting by Mail is Convenient, Economical, and Reliable!
- Continuing partnerships with state and local Election Officials to ensure smooth processing and delivery
- Ensure the needs of military and overseas voters are met
- Support state and local Vote-by-Mail programs



USPS Election Mail Outreach

- Education
 - 2016 Official Election Mail™ Program Kit
 - Publication 631, *Official Election Mail—Graphic Guidelines*
 - Publication 632, *State and Local Election Mail—User's Guide*
- Mailpiece Design Support
- Pre-Election Outreach & Issue Resolution



Postal Standards and Processing

Delivery Standards

- First-Class Mail: 2-5 day Delivery
- Standard and Non-profit Mail: 3-10 day Delivery (Lower 48 States)
 - USPS Commitment: Election Mail is processed within our Delivery Standards

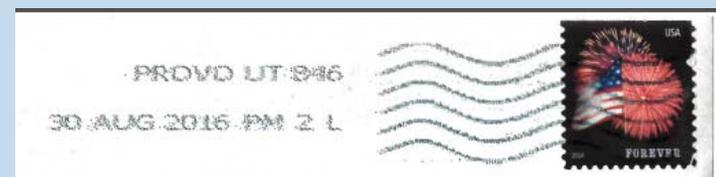
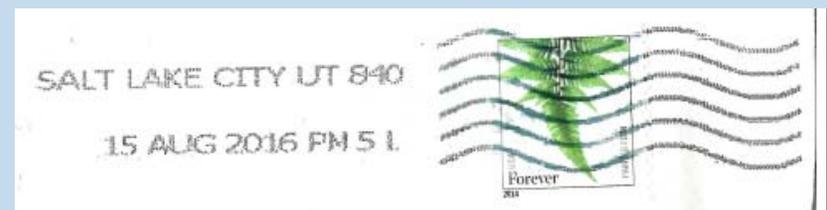
Collection Network and Transit Times

- Utah mail is collected and transported to processing plants daily.
 - **Salt Lake City, UT**, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC)
 - **Provo, UT**, Customer Service Mail Processing Center (CSMPC)



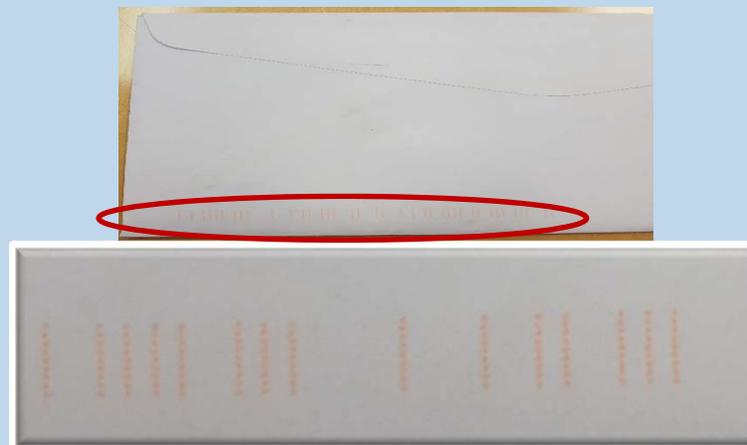
“Postmark”

- USPS Imprint on Mail Piece: Post Office Name, State Abbreviation, Date of Postmark, and ZIP Code.
- May include time abbreviation, e.g. AM or PM
- Generally applied at processing plants via automation

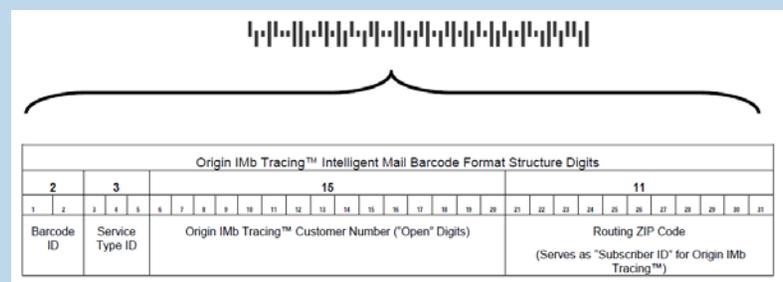


Additional Postal Markings

- Fluorescent ID Barcoding
 - Located on Back of the Envelope
 - Applied at plant on 1st Class Mail
 - Date & Time, ZIP Code, Plant
 - Two Week Data Limitation
 - Not on all mail pieces



- IMb® Scan Events / IMb® Tracking Barcode
 - Applied by Mailer
 - Imbeds unique information including tracking of mail piece



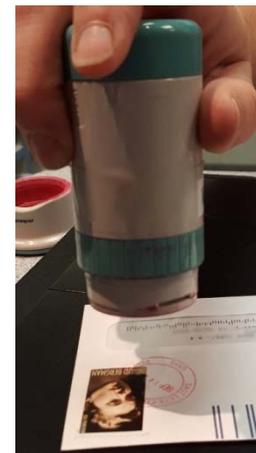
Mail Collection Deadlines

- Mail Deposited in Collection Boxes Before Posted Pick-up Times are Postmarked the Same Day



Mail Collection Deadlines

- Mail Deposited at Post Offices by Posted Cut Off Times - Postmarked the Same Day.
- Last Minute Voters: May Request “Manual Postmark” or “Ball Date” at any Post Office.



Mail Collection Times

Mail Deposited in Curbside Mailboxes *Before* the Carrier Arrives are Postmarked the Same Day, with Exceptions.

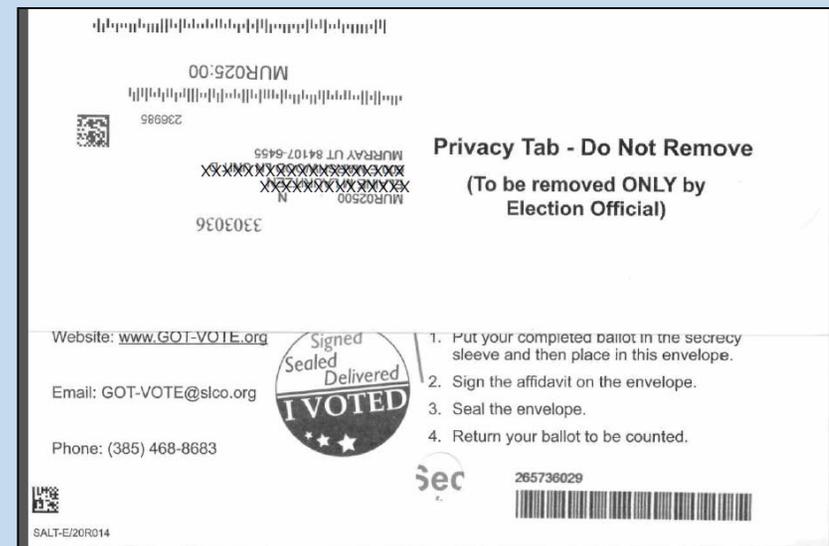


Ballot Envelopes

Design Choices Affect Compatibility With Postal Automation

- Information Congestion on Back of Envelopes
 - Changing Location Improves Mail Processing
- Color & Logos
- Letter Size Envelopes are superior to Flat (Manila) Size Envelopes for Return Ballots

Back of a General Primary Ballot in 2016

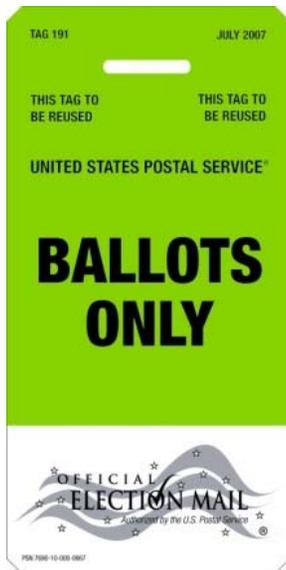


Absentee Ballot Application Deadlines

- Consider USPS Delivery Standards
- Allow Adequate Time for Delivery & Return



Improve Communications on Ballot Deadlines

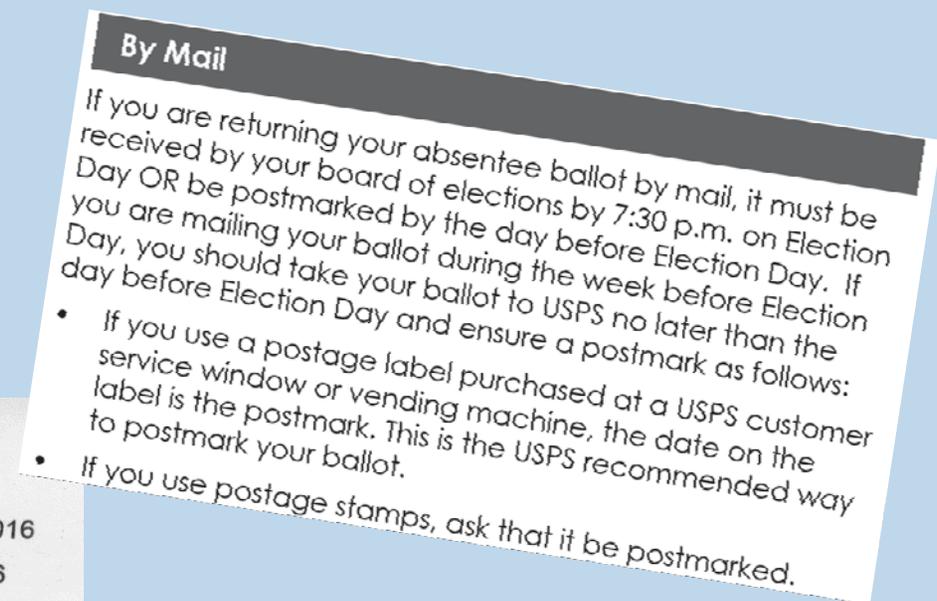


- **Vote Early!**
- **Domestic Voters:** Ballots sent with sufficient time for voter to receive, complete and return at least one week before the deadline
- **Military/Overseas:** “Return by” guidance provided at location by Military Postal Service Agency

- Voter Communication and Education is Essential
 - Consider including a voter notifications in the ballot materials
 - Examples available from USPS

**Return your ballot:**

- In the mail - post marked by June 27, 2016
- In a drop box at your city office now through June 27, 2016
- At a polling location before 8:00 p.m. on June 28, 2016



Let's Grow Turnout and Election Mail Together!

