

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Mr. Gerald Roane  
Virginia District Manager  
United States Postal Service  
1801 Brook Road  
Richmond, VA 23232

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy and Mr. Roane:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the delivery of election mail and to urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) to ensure that all voters are able to cast their ballots in the upcoming general election. Over the past months, we have voiced our apprehensions about postal operations in the Central Virginia region, and we appreciate the responses we have received to those inquiries. However, we are now alarmed by reports indicating that local election officials are advising voters against using USPS to mail in their ballots.

It is paramount that voters have confidence in USPS to safeguard one of the country's most fundamental democratic principles. Therefore, we have consistently urged USPS to be more forthcoming and transparent about the steps it is taking to guarantee the timely delivery of mail and packages. Just as we have in the past, we again implore USPS to provide clear guidance and updates to voters regarding the agency's plan to handle election mail, thereby assuring voters that they can rely on USPS to deliver their ballots securely and punctually.

That being said, we commend USPS for establishing a permanent Elections and Government Mail Services Division, equipped with a dedicated team trained to monitor and resolve election mail issues. We are grateful for the division's efforts in ensuring the timely delivery of election mail during the 2022 midterm and 2023 state election cycles. Over 2 million Virginians voted absentee in the last general election, and we expect a similar turnout in the 2024 general election.

Given USPS's critical role in facilitating the electoral process, it is imperative to address this issue promptly and effectively. Therefore, we respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. What specific measures is USPS implementing to ensure the timely and secure delivery of election mail processed at the Sandston Processing and Distribution Center?
2. Will USPS be allocating additional resources, such as personnel and equipment, to prioritize the handling of election mail until after the November elections?
3. What steps is USPS taking to coordinate with local authorities and election officials to ensure the security and integrity of the election mail process?
4. Does USPS have a strategy in place to inform voters about its handling of election mail, assuring them that their absentee ballots will be returned to local registrars by the Virginia Department of Elections deadline of noon on the third day following the election?
5. Can USPS provide an update on the Elections and Government Mail Services Division's plans to support USPS delivery operations in the upcoming general election, specifically USPS operations in Virginia?

6. Can USPS share any steps it is taking or will be taking before November to ensure the timely return of absentee ballots from military, diplomatic, and other overseas voters?

The hardworking postal employees we represent provide critical services to their fellow Virginians. By no means should they bear the consequences for complicating factors outside their control that make it more difficult for them to do their jobs well. USPS needs to provide regular updates and transparency regarding its efforts to address these issues. Voters deserve to be informed about actions being taken to safeguard our democracy and ensure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in the electoral process. Given there are several additional elections upcoming in 2024, including Virginia's June primaries, there is a need for a comprehensive and timely response. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

  
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Abigail Davis Spangenberg  
Member of Congress