

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2024

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

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write to express our support for the United States Postal Service's (USPS) efforts to implement extraordinary measures to ensure all North Carolina absentee ballots are returned to the appropriate county boards of elections offices as quickly as possible. Upholding the right to vote and preventing election interference are critical to protecting our democracy, and we welcome your commitment to these shared American values.

Although North Carolina previously counted all ballots postmarked by Election Day, this year, officials only will count the ballots county boards of elections have received by 7:30 PM on Election Day. Given the record number of voters who will vote by mail in the 2024 election and the Postal Service's critical role in defending election integrity, we request that USPS make public on a daily basis certain key factors regarding election mail processing, as outlined in the September Extraordinary Measures Memo, beginning this week and continuing through November 5th.

Specifically, we request that the U.S. Post Office respond to the following concerns and share the requested information:

1. Alarming, we have heard reports from at least one county (Warren) that the board of elections has not been informed of any drop-offs after the 4:30 PM cutoff, despite North Carolina's 7:30pm receipt deadline.
 - Please confirm that all local postmasters have coordinated after-hours handoffs with local boards of elections, starting November 2nd and continuing through 5th, to drop off additional ballots before the 7:30 PM receipt deadline in North Carolina on Election Day.
 - In addition, please confirm that additional trips will run after the USPS-imposed cutoff time of 4:30pm on election day.
2. Confirm that USPS processing facilities have implemented all measures outlined in the extraordinary measures memo, such that all mail coming from or addressed to county boards of elections is being retrieved for local turnaround, and the facility is conducting daily "all clears" for election mail.
3. Next week and in particular on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th, please provide the "election mail log" required by the extraordinary measures memo for all NC processing facilities.
4. As you know, the extraordinary measures memo makes some measures optional for retail locations. In order to ensure that ballots and other election-related mail like cure certifications are not getting stuck at these facilities, please ensure that all retail locations are implementing extraordinary measures available, by confirming:

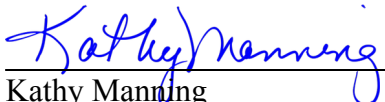
- All mail coming from or addressed to county boards of elections is being retrieved for local turnaround,
- Every retail office is conducting daily “all clears” for election mail, and
- Next week and in particular on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th please provide the “election mail log” for all NC retail facilities.

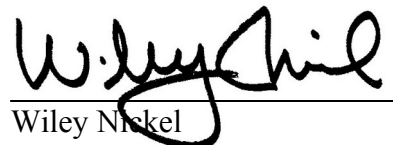
5. Confirm out-of-state USPS processing facilities that handle NC election mail also implement these extraordinary measures. Specifically confirm drop-off plans are in place on Election Day to have extra trips to NC boards of election from processing centers in Norfolk and Richmond, VA and in South Carolina and Tennessee that handle NC mail.


6. Next week and in particular on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th please provide the “election mail log” for all processing facilities outside of NC that service NC mail.


Again, thank you for the USPS’ continuing commitment to the timely and complete delivery of all ballots, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Kathy Manning
Member of Congress


Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress


Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress