

2022 Post-Election Analysis:

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**SUCCESSFULLY  
DELIVERING THE  
NATION'S ELECTION  
MAIL DURING THE  
2022 MIDTERM  
ELECTIONS**

**99.93%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED  
FROM VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS **WITHIN SEVEN DAYS**

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**99.82%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED  
FROM VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS **WITHIN FIVE DAYS**

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**98.96%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED  
FROM VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS **WITHIN THREE DAYS**

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**<2**

DAYS ON AVERAGE TO DELIVER  
BALLOTS FROM **ELECTION  
OFFICIALS TO VOTERS**

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**<2**

DAYS ON AVERAGE TO DELIVER  
BALLOTS FROM **VOTERS TO  
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

With mail-in ballots becoming an increasing part of our nation's election process, the entire United States Postal Service (USPS) team is committed to the critical mission of delivering the American peoples' ballots on time, securely, and safely.

We are proud to say that in 2022, as in years past, the USPS accomplished this mission and delivered for the American people in exemplary fashion. During the general election period of September 8-December 6, 2022, the Postal Service successfully delivered 54.4 million ballots\* to and from voters. Notably, ballots from voters to local boards of elections were delivered in less than two days.

These results don't happen by accident. Months of unseen and unheralded preparation, tireless execution, and nonstop attention to detail are required to process, transport, and deliver tens of millions of ballots on time.

As the volume of mail-in ballots grows, so does the need to communicate with an expanding number of civic partners. To ensure we are effectively engaging with external stakeholders, we established a permanent Election and Government Mail Services Team. This team coordinated thousands of meetings and countless contacts with election officials to explain how to efficiently and effectively use the mail and to educate them about the resources available from the Postal Service to support their plans.

Our success was possible only because our operational and outreach efforts are carried out by dedicated and diligent professionals. So, we want to begin this election report by thanking the 644,000 women and men of the USPS – who delivered for America on election day and deliver for all of us throughout the year – for the great results we achieved this election cycle.

While our numbers in 2022 are strong, there is always room for improvement. We will continue to encourage election officials to utilize our intelligent mail barcode technology which impacts and improves our ability to track the number of ballots and move them to their final destination more effectively. We will continue to educate state and local election officials along with federal and state policymakers about our delivery standards and capabilities and the challenges that exist in juxtaposition with vote by mail deadlines.

We're reviewing our performance in 2022 to evaluate where we succeeded and where we can do better. Like any successful organization, continual success depends on continuous improvement. No one ever achieves perfection, but everyone can strive for it. That's what we intend to do for the American people in future elections.



**Louis DeJoy**

*Postmaster General & Chief Executive  
Officer United States Postal Service*



**Amber McReynolds**

*Governor and Chair, Election Mail  
Committee United States Postal Service  
Board of Governors*

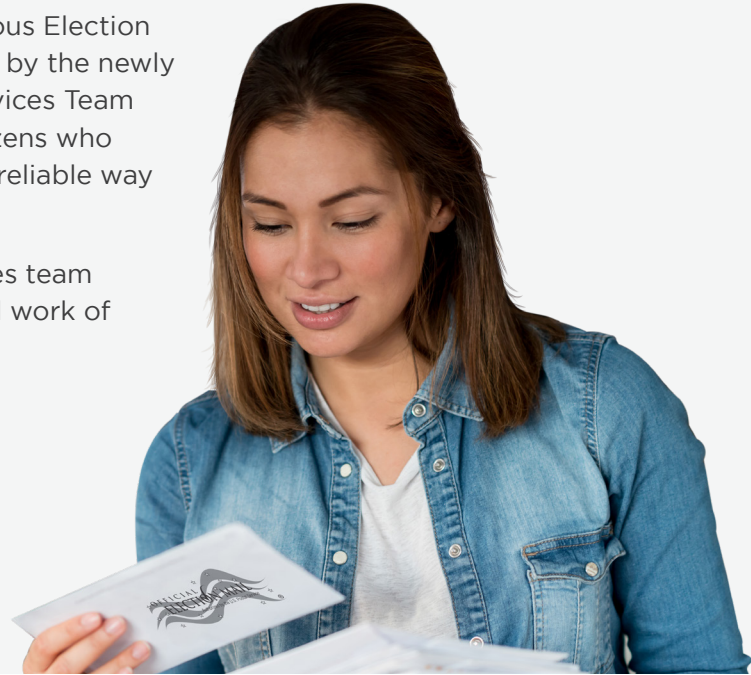
\*The total number of delivered ballots may greatly exceed 54.4 million. This figure includes only those ballots that were properly identified as ballots using the correct electronic identifiers, and does not include many of the ballots that the Postal Service diverted from its processing network or otherwise handled outside of normal processes in an effort to accelerate delivery.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the United States Postal Service (USPS) continued to deliver for the American people by successfully handling mail-in ballots in a mid-term Congressional election. The Postal Service processed, transported, and delivered a total of 105.4 million ballots\* this year – 51 million in the primaries and 54.4 million more in the November midterms (and December 6 run-off election in Georgia).

Building on a record of success from previous Election Mail efforts, an organizational structure led by the newly created Election and Government Mail Services Team fulfilled an essential mission: providing citizens who choose to vote-by-mail a safe, secure, and reliable way to do so.

The Elections and Government Mail Services team and operations was supported by the hard work of Postal Service employees and consistent communications between the USPS and election officials around the country.



**105.4M**   
**BALLOTS DELIVERED IN 2022**

## USPS'S ROLE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The role of the USPS in American elections is clear and well defined: to process, transport and deliver the nation's Election Mail, including ballots. We have no role in determining the extent to which the mail is used for participating in elections, the design of ballots or return envelopes, or whether or how ballots are counted. We also have no role in setting state election deadlines, including dates to request (if required by the state) or return a ballot.

In elections past, the Election Mail process was overseen by an ad hoc group of USPS leaders. But after the upsurge of mail-in ballots in 2020 caused by the COVID pandemic, and projections that voting by mail would increase in the future, it was clear that our organization would benefit from a permanent group to lead the development and execution of Election Mail policies and work cross-functionally across the organization to ensure the timely delivery of Election Mail in 2022 and beyond. The Election and Government Mail Services Team was created for this purpose and demonstrates the USPS's focus on the timely and secure delivery of Election Mail.

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## ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS WITH VOTE-BY-MAIL STAKEHOLDERS

To help ensure election officials and vote-by-mail stakeholders understand how to successfully use the mail and the Postal Service resources available to them, we conducted regular outreach efforts with state and local election administrators leading up to both the 2022 primary and general elections. This was consistent with our outreach efforts in past election cycles.

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We distributed our official Election Mail program kit (KIT 600) to more than 12,000 election officials and made it publicly available online.

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During the general election period, the Postal Service completed more than 8,000 points of contact with individual jurisdictions to understand their mailing plans, to share guidance from the Postal Service on mail policies, and to address local issues as they arose.

In March 2022, we distributed our official Election Mail program kit (KIT 600) to more than 12,000 election officials and made it publicly available online. The kit provided election officials with detailed information on what they can expect when using the mail, including the products and services of most interest to them, such as the options regarding different classes of mail; our mailpiece design services; and ways to enable tracking of Election Mail through the use of barcodes.



## DEPLOYING PROVEN, LONGSTANDING OPERATIONAL PROCESSES TO DELIVER THE NATION'S ELECTION MAIL

The external coordination and communication was complemented by an internal effort to ensure that our remarkable Postal workforce understood the Election Mail policies and procedures and carried them out. We conducted ongoing education and training for Postal Service employees, and provided a series of guidance documents to help them understand their responsibilities with respect to Election Mail.

We used our longstanding, proven policies and procedures to securely and efficiently deliver Election Mail heading toward the November election (and the Georgia run-off). In September 2022, we issued an General Election Preparedness memo to employees outlining our key practices for the proper handling of Election Mail including daily all clears, advancing all Election Mail regardless of the paid class, postmarking and the authorization of extra trips and deliveries if needed to keep Election Mail moving through the postal network.

As we did during the 2020 General Election and elections before, we implemented and deployed a variety of extraordinary measures to deliver the nation's ballots as election day approached. These practices extended beyond our normal operating procedures to ensure that the ballots mailed on or shortly before election day were delivered on time and counted.

Between October 24 and November 29, local postal managers were authorized to take these extraordinary measures to accelerate delivery of ballots. Extra collections and deliveries were made, special pick-ups were set up, processing facilities expanded their hours, expedited deliveries were made to boards of elections and local turnarounds were arranged at local facilities to bypass standard processing operations when necessary to move ballots to their intended destinations more quickly.

In keeping with our practice in the 2020 General Election, we stood-up a Joint Election Mail Task Force with our postal service unions and management associations. The task force designated Ballot Monitors and Ballot Ambassadors in outgoing processing facilities, retail locations and delivery units to ensure awareness of procedures for handling Election Mail and to resolve processing and delivery issues as they arose.

## HURRICANE IAN

As part of the nation's critical infrastructure, the Postal Service stands ready to respond in times of national emergencies including hurricanes. The resumption of mail service is often one of the first signs of an impacted community's return to normalcy following a natural disaster. In September, our nationwide preparation, situation monitoring and local operational flexibility allowed us not only to deal with the massive number of ballots that were routinely handled in the weeks before the election, but also to respond quickly and effectively to the emergency created by Hurricane Ian, which devastated parts of Florida the same week that vote-by-mail packets were scheduled to be mailed out.

Working with state and local officials, we executed a robust plan to ensure that displaced voters would receive their ballots. We coordinated with state election officials to redirect ballots and Election Mail to an alternate Florida processing facility that was unaffected by the storm. Ballots for impacted and displaced voters were held in post offices for 20 days while Change of Address cards were delivered to the residents. In the end, we were able to ensure minimal mail disruption and the secure delivery of ballots from voters impacted by Hurricane Ian who opted to use the mail to cast their ballot.

## MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

The USPS met public and election official expectations for the security and timeliness of the ballots entrusted to our care throughout the 2022 elections during the primary season and November's general election.

In November's midterm elections, USPS delivered more than 54.4 million ballots through the U.S. Mail to support elections across the country in 2022.\*

In the November general election, 98.96% of ballots sent by voters to election officials were delivered within three days, 99.82% were delivered within five days, and 99.93% were delivered within seven days. Importantly, we delivered completed ballots from voters to election officials in an average of less than two days.

In 2022, there were 66 primaries, runoffs and special elections in 50 states and territories. During the primary season, more than 51 million ballots were delivered to and from primary voters with 99.93% of the ballots being delivered to election officials within seven calendar days of the mail entering our system, and 99.93% being delivered within three days. On average, it took less than two days to deliver ballots to and/or from voters during the primary season.

\*Covering the period September 6 - December 6, 2022. The total number of delivered ballots may greatly exceed 54.4 million. This figure includes only those ballots that were properly identified as ballots using the correct electronic identifiers, and does not include many of the ballots that the Postal Service diverted from its processing network or otherwise handled outside of normal processes in an effort to accelerate delivery.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023-2024

As the popularity and use of voting by mail continues to grow across the nation, the USPS will remain fully focused on delivering for election officials and for voters who choose to use the mail to participate in elections.

State laws and voting processes will continue to evolve, and we will continue to educate local, state and federal policymakers on the Postal Service's prescribed role in the electoral process: to process, transport and deliver the nation's Election Mail.

Now that the 2022 elections are over, we will review our performance and continue to look for ways to improve upon the tremendous results from this successful midterm election.

