

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2024

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

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

We write to express concern with the Atlanta Regional Processing and Distribution Center (RPDC)'s ability to process mail-in absentee ballots for the 2024 Election. We would like to request from the USPS a list of steps that are being taken to ensure all absentee ballots that are processed via the Atlanta RPDC will be delivered in a timely manner and processed for a timely return.

Our constituents and all residents of Georgia-- most of whom have always viewed the USPS as reliable-- depend on the delivery of mail to pay their bills, receive their paychecks, file their taxes, and send their ballots. However, over the past year, many of our constituents have lost faith in mail delivery by the USPS in Georgia due to delays caused by the implementation of the United States Postal Service Delivering for America (DFA) Plan. As members of the United States House of Representatives, we have received many calls from constituents frustrated with the abrupt delay in delivery and receipt of their mail due to processing issues at the Atlanta RPDC.

With that in mind, ensuring the integrity of absentee ballots is crucial for maintaining trust in the democratic process. Voting is a sacred right and the most important tool in shaping our republic. The USPS plays a crucial role in processing mail-in ballots during elections and is tasked with working closely with local and state election officials to ensure the secure delivery of absentee ballots.

The state of Georgia allows absentee ballots to be requested any time between 78 and 11 calendar days prior to Election Day, and all absentee ballots must arrive at their county election office by Election Day¹. We want assurances that the USPS will be able to guarantee delivery and return of the absentee ballots in such a short turnaround time of at least 11 days.

Further to this point, on September 11, the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) President Mandy Vigil, NASED Incoming President Bryan Caskey, NASS President Steve Simon, NASS President-Elect Michael Watson, and the presidents of 29 local election official associations sent a joint letter² to you on behalf of state, territorial, and local election officials nationwide regarding concerns about election mail service. This letter notes that over the past year election officials across the country have raised serious questions about deficiencies at the USPS impacting its ability to deliver election mail in a timely and accurate manner. The letter states, "*Despite repeated engagement with USPS Election and Political Mail headquarters staff and state/regional Managers of Customer Relations, we have not seen improvement or concerted efforts to*

¹ <https://georgia.gov/vote-absentee-ballot>

² <https://www.nased.org/news/uspsletter924>

remediate our concerns. In fact, many of the issues raised by election officials are echoed in the recent findings of the USPS Office of Inspector General Audit, Election Mail Readiness for the 2024 General Election."

With this in mind, we request that USPS provide answers to the following questions by September 30th:

1. What steps is USPS, including the Atlanta RPDC, taking to ensure the timely and secure delivery of absentee ballots, from the time they are mailed by Georgia's Secretary of State to voters, through to the return of completed ballots to county election offices, especially within short timelines (e.g., 11 days before Election Day)? Can you guarantee, under the current processes and procedures due to the consolidation, the delivery of all absentee ballots and return of completed ballots before Election Day?
2. How should voters in Georgia, particularly in rural or outlying areas, adjust their mail-in plans to ensure ballots are processed and received before Election Day?
3. Has USPS communicated with the Georgia Secretary of State about any potential delays due to processing center consolidations or other operational factors, and what impact could these have on absentee ballot processing?
4. Is any Georgia mail, including absentee ballots, being processed in other states, and how is this affecting the timeliness of mail delivery in rural and small-town areas?
5. List all the steps that USPS and the Atlanta Regional Processing and Distribution Center (RPDC) are taking to ensure the security of absentee ballots.

The residents of Georgia deserve to feel confident knowing that the USPS takes the security of their mail-in ballots seriously and considers no mistakes to be acceptable in the delivery of absentee ballots.

Sincerely,



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



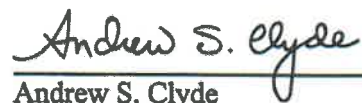
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