

MICHIGAN ELECTORATE

Mail-in Ballot Study - June 2025

Introduction

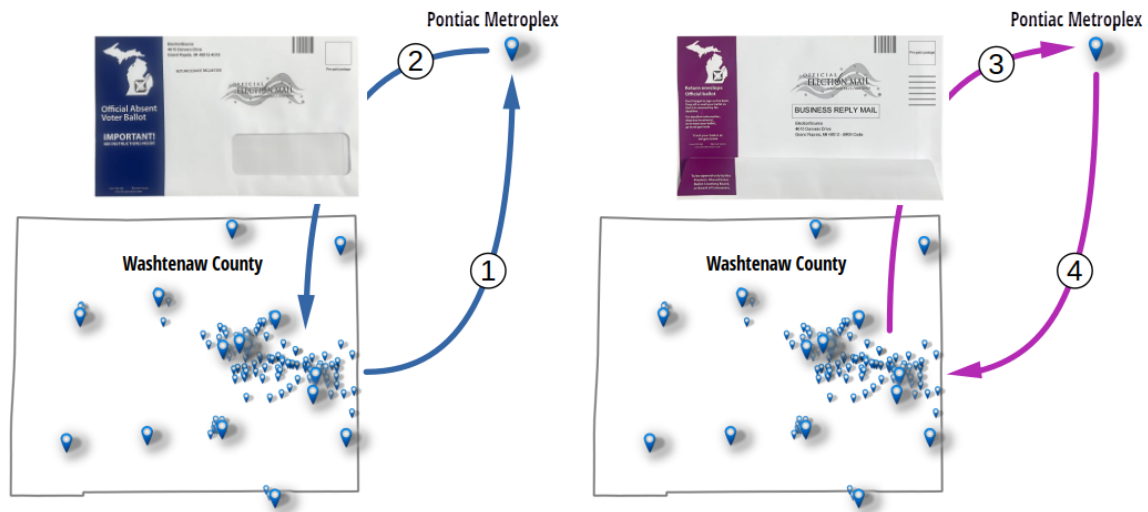
This paper summarizes our study of mail-in ballot delivery times in Washtenaw County. This data relates to congressional case #5288-180, opened in April of 2024.

The process for a Michigan voter to cast a ballot by mail starts when local clerks mail a blue envelope, containing a purple envelope and a ballot, to the voter:

1. The blue envelope goes to the Pontiac Metroplex, and
2. then returns to the voter in Washtenaw

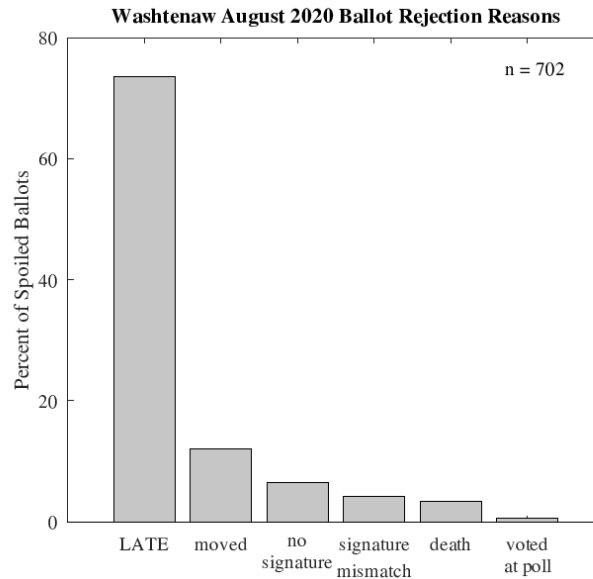
Next, the voter returns their ballot to their local clerk, inside the purple envelope:

3. The blue envelope goes to the Metroplex, and
4. then returns to the local clerk in Washtenaw



The ballot envelope data in this report is courtesy of the Pittsfield clerk.

The overwhelming majority of ballots arrive at the local clerk before 8 pm on election night, but late ballot arrival is still a common reason for ballot rejection. Somewhat more than 63,000 mail-in ballots were cast in Washtenaw County for the August 2020 state primary election.¹ A Freedom of Information Act request to each of local clerks indicated a total of 516 ballots arrived too late to be counted in that election.



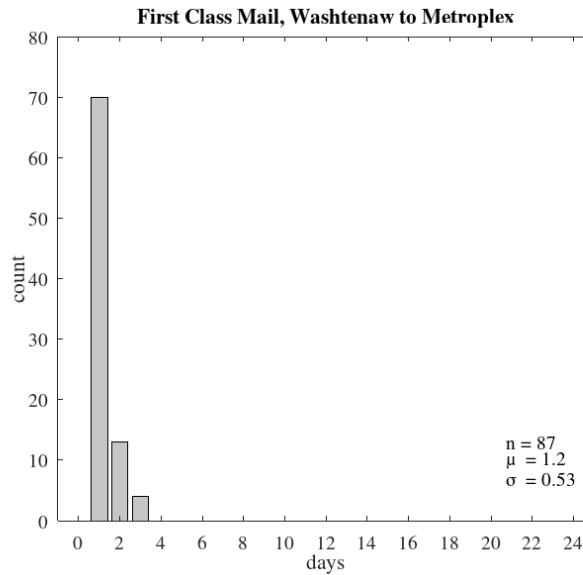
This rejection rate (approximately 0.8%) is, in our opinion, quite good. Unfortunately, county primary election outcomes are often determined by less than a five hundred vote difference, These observations motivated this mail study.

¹<https://electionresults.ewashtenaw.org/electionreporting/aug2020/index.jsp>

Washtenaw to Metroplex

Ballot mailing time from Washtenaw to the Metroplex is uncertain. Neither the blue ballot envelopes mailed to the voter nor the purple ballot envelope mailed to the clerk provide both deposit and delivery dates. Instead, we substituted first class mail delivery measurements for direct measurements of election mail.

The graph below shows mail delivery times from Washtenaw to the Metroplex for one hundred piece of first class mail from four different post offices in three distinct zip codes to two different destinations in two different zip codes.²



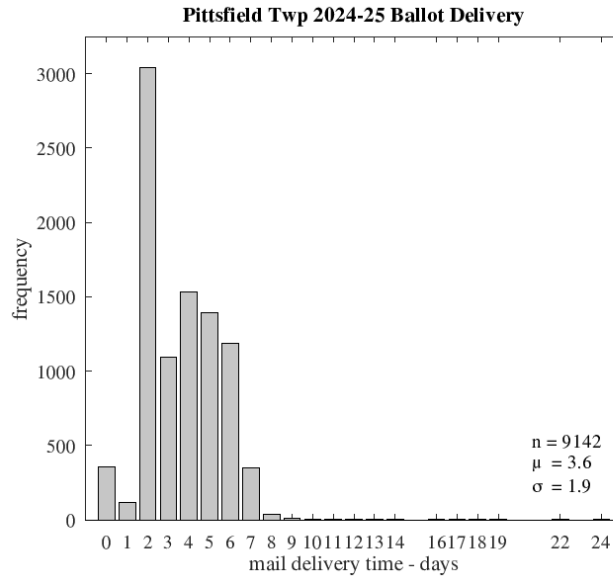
	days		
	count	mean	std. dev.
to Metroplex	87	1.2	0.53

To improve delivery time consistency, all mail was deposited after the post offices closed. This introduces a known delay compared to voters; voters can mail their ballot at any time during the day and from any mailbox. It is reasonable to assume our delivery times are roughly a half day longer than for the voter population at large.

²at the time of this writing, thirteen pieces are still outstanding - some are past 60 days, and are neglected for this study.

Metroplex to Washtenaw

The data below shows results of inspecting Pittsfield Township’s ballot envelopes for the elections shown in the table below.



election	envelopes		days to deliver			fail rate ³
	examined	postmarked	mean	std. dev.	max.	
Feb. 2024	4432	1885	4.3	1.8	18	2.0%
Aug. 2024	5056	2133	2.5	1.1	19	0.1%
Nov. 2024	11019	2708	2.6	1.5	14	0.5%
May 2025	4695	2416	5.1	1.4	24	0.6%
	(pooled)	9142	3.6	1.9	24	0.8%

The results indicate that most of the mailing time variation is in the return trip from the Metroplex.

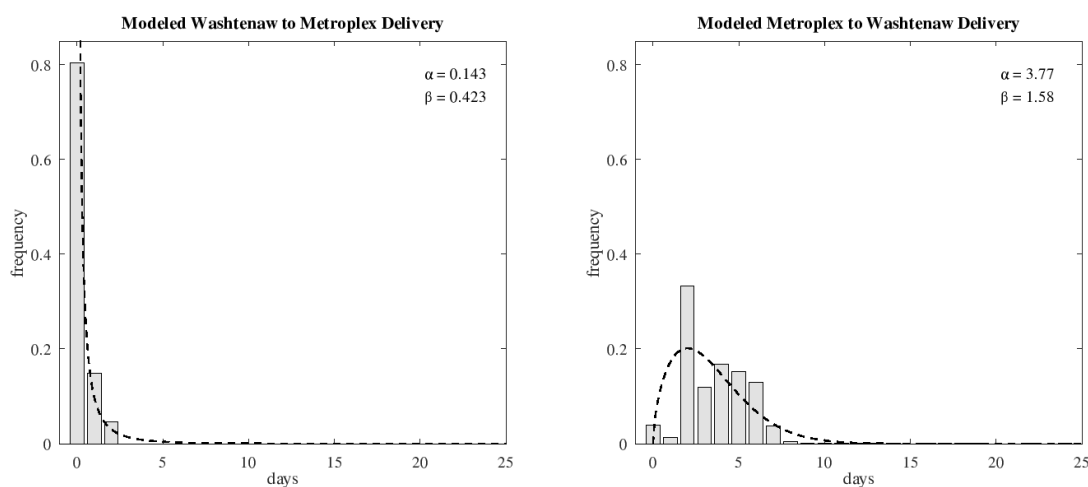
³Predicted risk of late ballot arrival using USPS General Counsel/Exec. V.P. Thomas J. Marshall’s July 29 2020 one week recommendation - see attached

Mail Delivery Time Model

A ballot delivery time model, under the following assumptions:

- First class mail measurements estimate ballot mailing time from Washtenaw to the Metroplex
- A 0.5 day delay adjustment (discussed previously)
- The mail-in ballot measurements above estimate time from the Metroplex to Washtenaw
- Blue and purple envelopes are treated the same by the USPS
- A two factor Weibull Distribution approximates to- or from- mail delivery times
- Overall ballot delivery time includes an unknown delay by the voter
- Delivery time is independent of mailing location or date⁴

Modeling parameters are shown below:

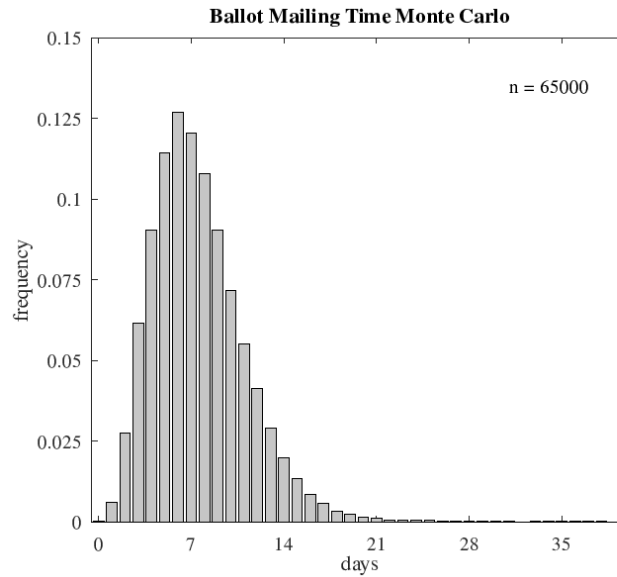


$f(x \geq 0) = \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \cdot \left(\frac{x}{\alpha}\right)^{\beta-1} \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\alpha}\right)^{\beta}}$	α	β
Washtenaw to Metroplex	0.143	0.423
Metroplex to Washtenaw	3.77	1.58

⁴There is reason to believe this is a poor assumption.

Monte Carlo Simulations

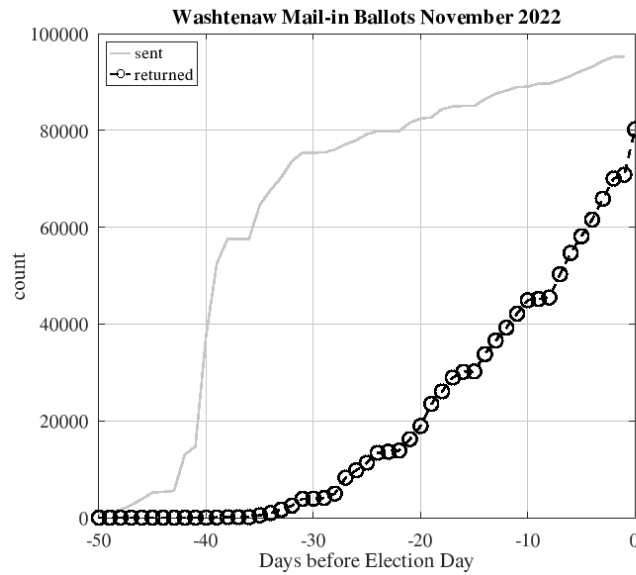
The graph below shows predicted ballot mailing times from a Monte Carlo simulation using the model derived above.



The model predicts at least 0.01% of mail-in ballots will arrive late no matter how fast the voters return their completed ballots. This result is mostly due to the skewed distribution on the return mailing trips from the Metroplex to Washtenaw County. Any additional voter delay in mailing their ballot back will increase the rate of late ballot arrival.

Voter Delay Effect

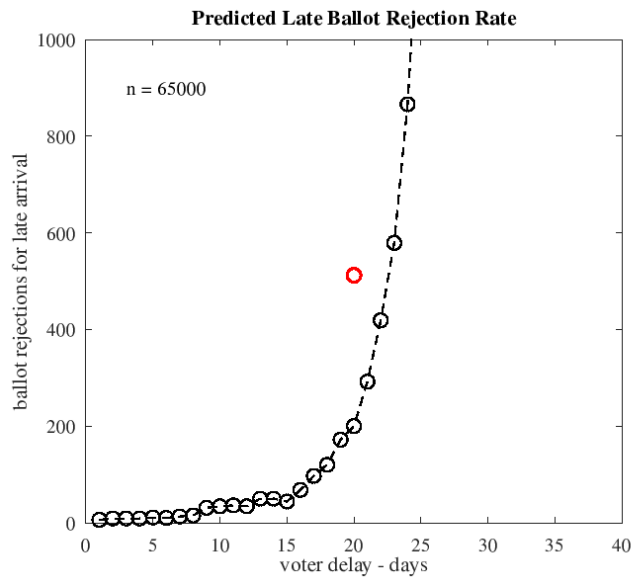
We have no direct data on how long voters take to fill out their ballot before depositing it in the mail for return to their clerk. To estimate an average voter delay, we examined aggregate ballot return rates from previous elections. The graph below shows ballot return counts for Washtenaw County's November 2022 general election:



The median ballot mail out time (for tabulated ballots) was 40 days in advance of the election. The median ballot received time at local clerks is twenty-nine days later. After subtracting two trips of average mailing time, the median voter delay is roughly twenty days.

Note this estimate mixes ballots delivered by mail with those deposited in a drop box or delivered in person.

Adding voter delay to the mail time model allows a direct comparison between simulated results and real world measurements. The graph below shows an estimate of the number of late ballot rejections as a function of voter delay, assuming a total mail-in ballot count of 65,000.⁵ Given a twenty day voter delay, the model predicts roughly 200 ballots rejected. The August of 2020 election had a total of 512 late mail-in ballots out of approximately 66,000. Despite the analytic complexity and considerable uncertainties, the model reasonably approximates real world results.



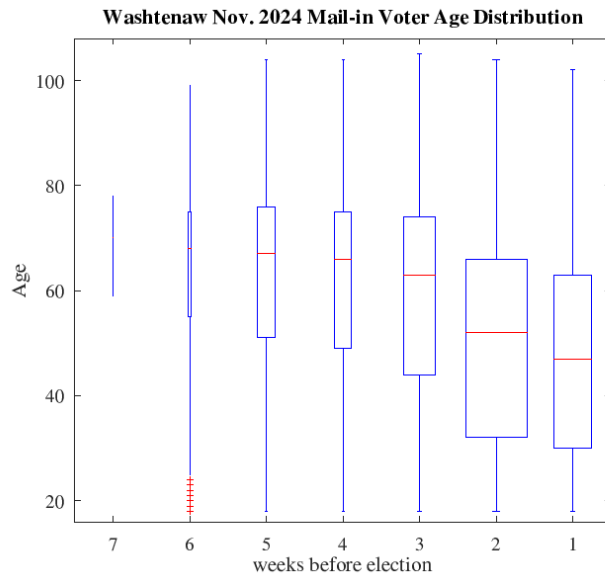
⁵Our estimate for Washtenaw in the November 2026 election.

Voter Impact

Our results suggest three disparate impacts of ballot mail travel:

1. Proactive postmasters advantage their community (see Ann Arbor November 2024, below)
2. Rural voters impacted by RTO mail delays are systematically disadvantaged
3. Due to voter behavior, mail delay tends to disadvantage younger voters

The last point may not be obvious. The box plots below voter age distributions by ballot return date for Washtenaw’s November 2024 election. The data shows that younger voters tend to wait longer before returning their ballots. The late ballot rejection rate can increase dramatically for ballots mailed late, so younger voters are at more risk of ballot rejection.



Recommendations

As allowed by law and practical:

Voters

- Overseas voters should demand electronically transmitted ballots.⁶
- Military overseas should use electronic ballots
- All others overseas should use mail services with an assured delivery time.
- Voters should record their mailing date & time on their ballot envelope, and
- should immediately return their ballots at least two weeks before election day,
- Within the last two election weeks, local voters should hand deliver their ballots.

Voter Protection Organizations

- Can help prevent voting delays by contacting voters with undeliverable addresses.
- Should educate voters, particularly young voters, about delays and late rejections.
- Should educate voters as to their proper drop boxes.
- Should gather and analyze public mail-in ballot delivery data more broadly.

Clerks

- Should date stamp all election materials prior to storing.
- Should request serialized IMb[®] bar codes on ballot envelopes, and
- use existing zero cost USPS envelope tracking services.
- Should coordinate election day ballot transfers to mitigate voter drop box confusion.
- Should use different receiving processes for in-person, drop box and USPS delivery
- Should summarize ballot delivery times & methods post-election with special attention paid to ballots rejected due to late arrival.
- Should explicitly note specific rejection reasons on rejected ballot envelopes.
- Should review requirements for materials storage, and
- periodically inventory stored election materials.
- Clerks must protect stored election materials against damage.

Postmaster:

- Should bypass the USPS' [RTO](#)⁷ and deliver ballots directly.

⁶per MCL 168.759a

⁷<https://about.usps.com/what/strategic-plans/delivering-for-america/assets/dfa-2-0-fulfilling-the-promise-2024.pdf>

Individual Election Vote-by-Mail Statistics

This section reviews data from individual elections:

- February 2024 Presidential Primary
- August 2024 State Primary
- November 2024 General
- May 2025 Special

Description of Analyses

Unless otherwise noted, data includes only ballots sent through the USPS in approved envelopes and with accepted signatures. This covered more than 95% of the total stored ballot envelopes.

Arrival Method

These pie charts quantify postmarked and non-postmarked ballot envelopes. Michigan allows at least three delivery methods:

1. In person, either to the clerk or the election day tabulator
2. Through a drop box
3. By USPS

Some number of ballots were delivered via the USPS without a postmark, as evidenced by:

- Ballot envelopes with clear postal service marks, e.g. bar codes.
- Ballots received after election day

Delivery Times

Delivery times are visualized two ways:

- Histograms of delivery time from earliest postmark to clerk's received date.
- Ogives showing the cumulative distribution of ballots against their delivery time.

The ogive charts also note estimated late ballot arrival rates as a function of days mailed prior to the election.

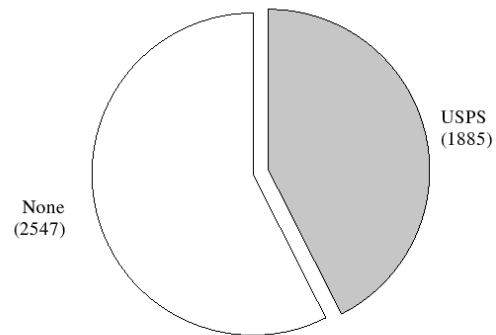
Arrival Dates

These histograms show the number of ballots received by day.

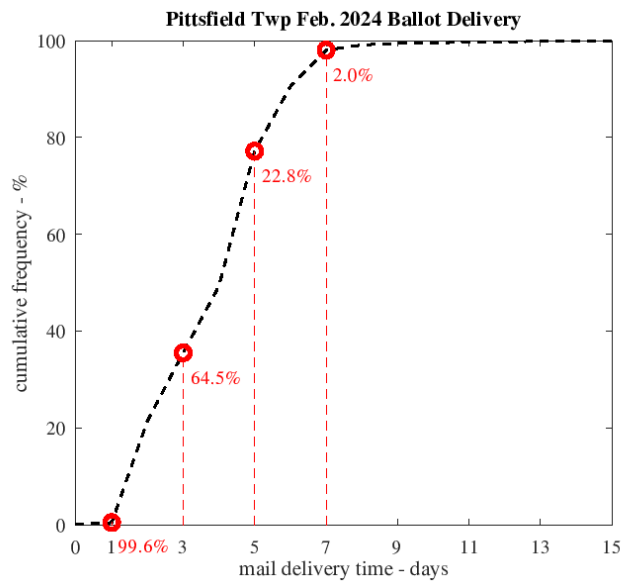
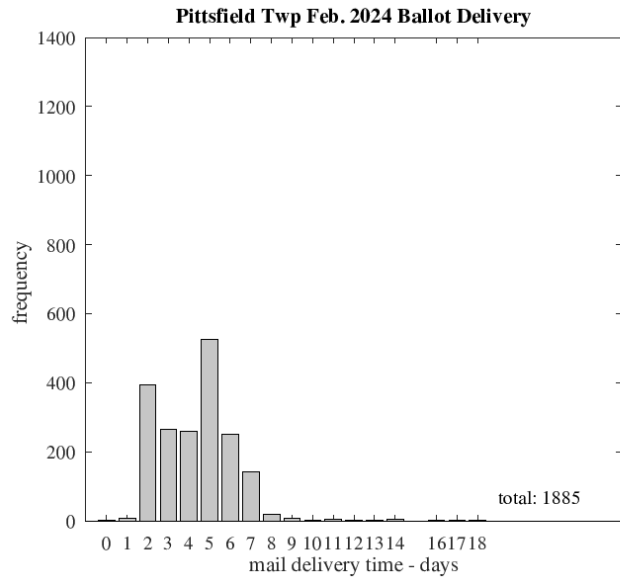
Typically, ballots arrive at an increasing rate as the election approaches. More ballots arrive on Monday than any other day of the week.

February 2024 Presidential Primary Election Arrival Method

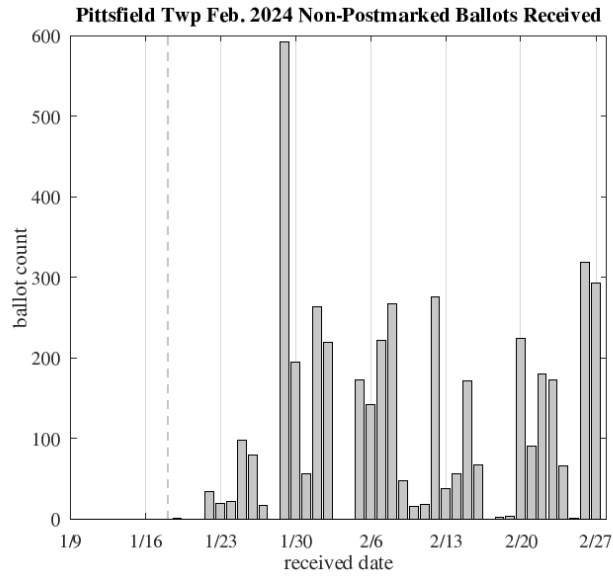
Pittsfield Twp Feb. 2024 Ballot Envelope Postmarks



Delivery Times



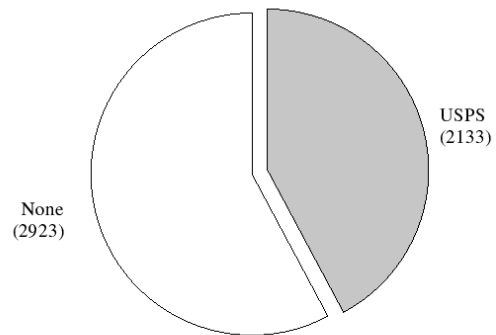
Arrival Times



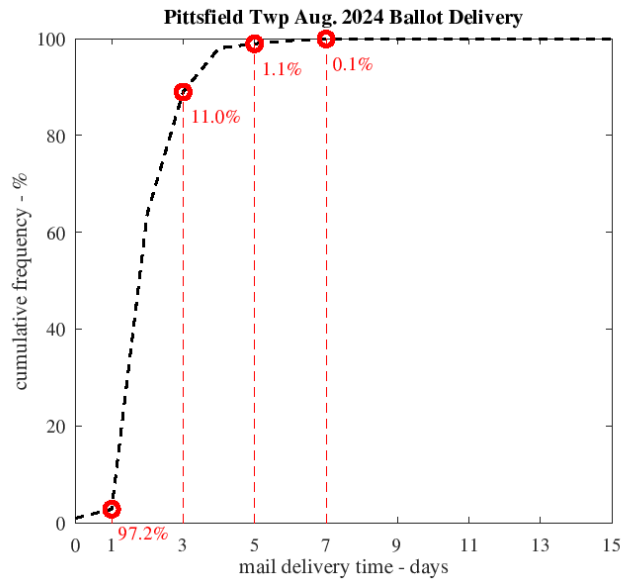
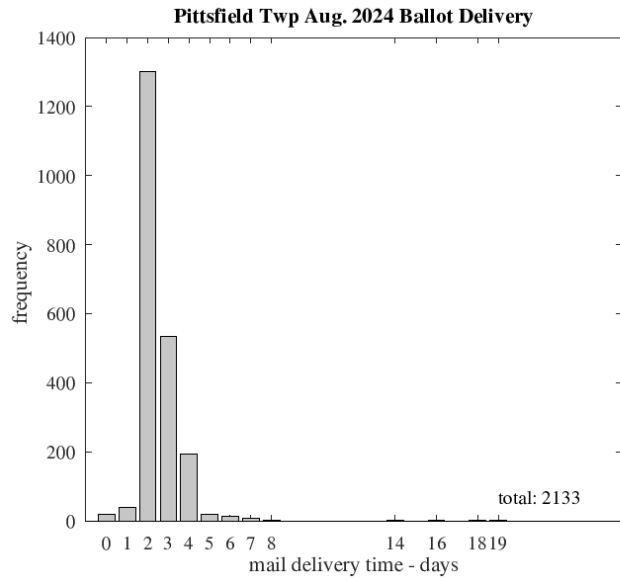
August 2024 State Primary Election

Arrival Method

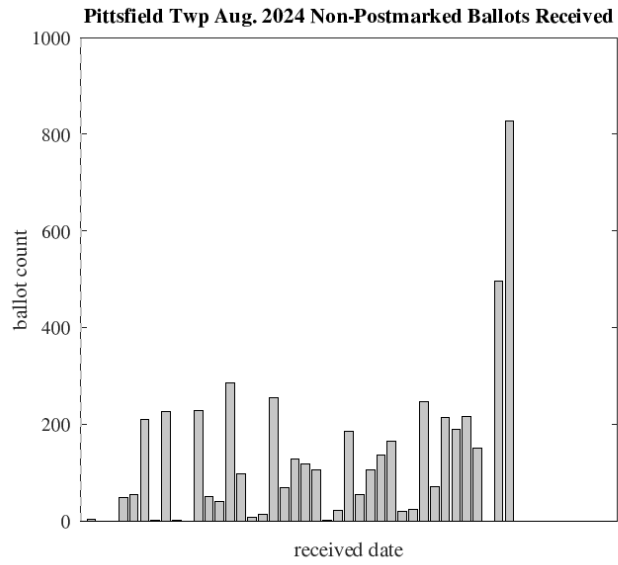
Pittsfield Twp Aug. 2024 Ballot Envelope Postmarks



Delivery Times



Arrival Times



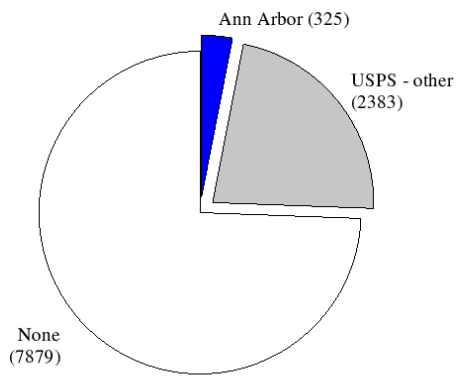
November 2024 General Election

Arrival Method

Most ballot envelopes in the November general election had no postmarks, and quite a few had local postmarks but none from the Metroplex.

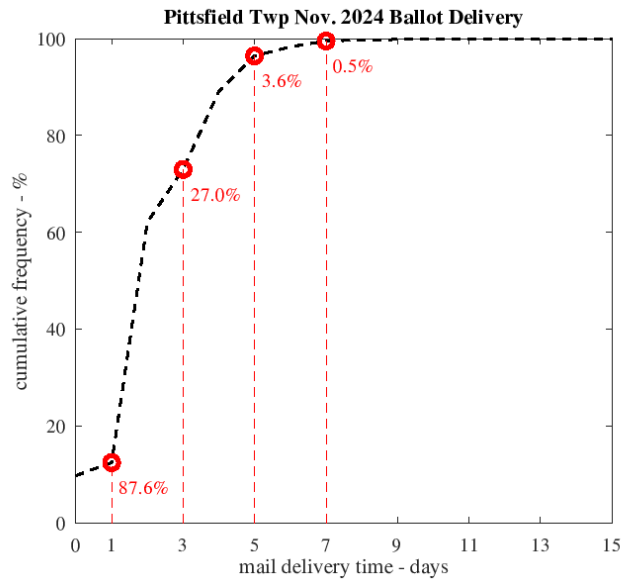
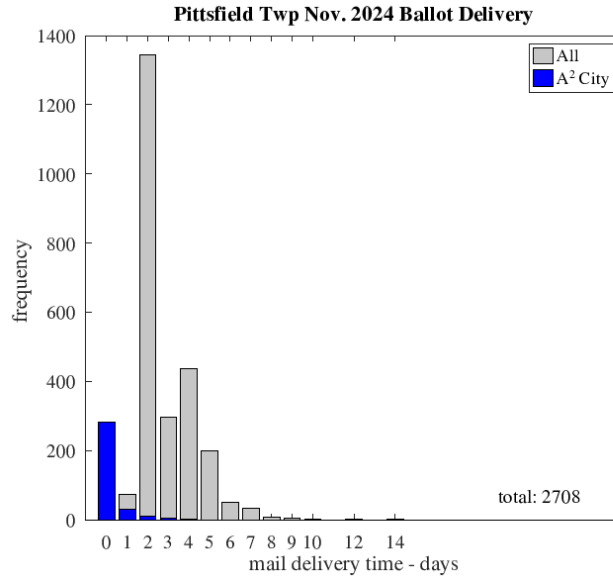
We made a second examination to identify envelopes with only an Ann Arbor postmark, and then calculated travel times for this subset of ballots. As shown on the next page, the envelopes with only an Ann Arbor postmark made a distinct group.

Pittsfield Twp Nov. 2024 Ballot Envelope Postmarks



Delivery Times

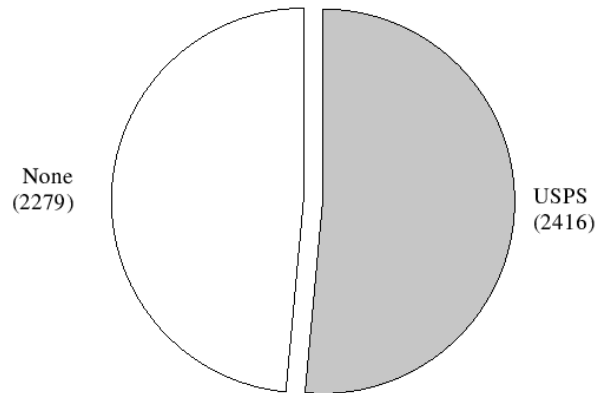
Fifteen ballots without postmarks were received after election day. Envelopes with only an Ann Arbor postmark made a distinct group, with a mode of zero days.



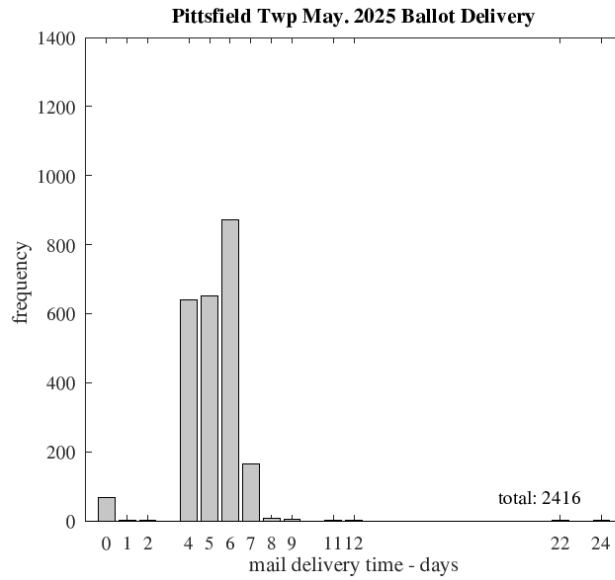
May 2025 Special Election

Arrival Method

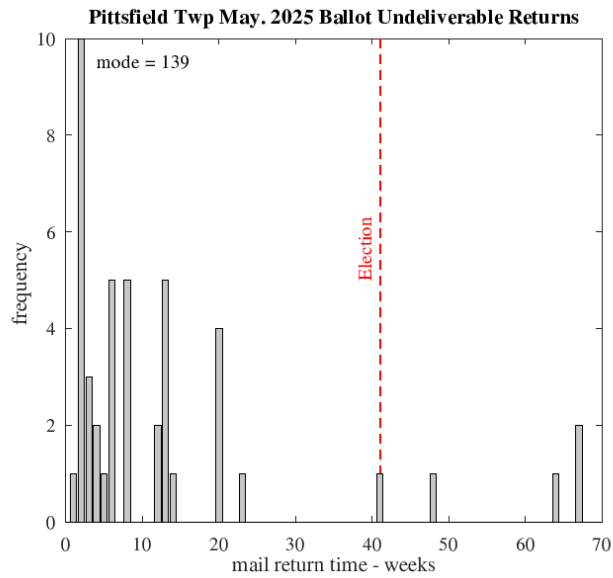
Pittsfield Twp May. 2025 Ballot Envelope Postmarks



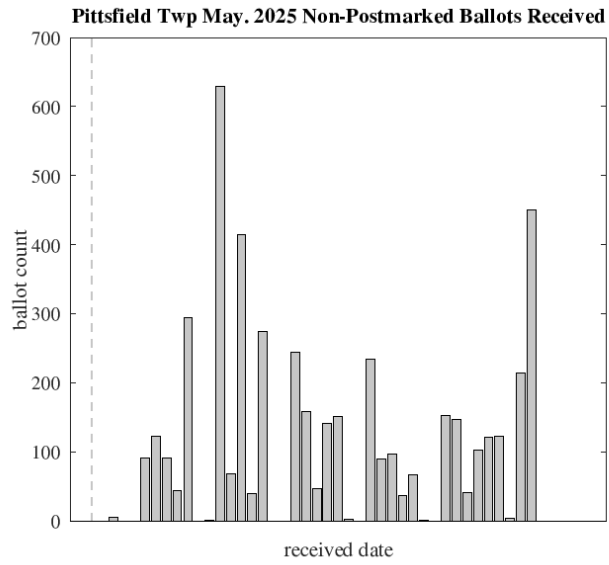
Delivery Times



The graph below shows delivery times for ballots returned to the clerk as undeliverable.



Arrival Times



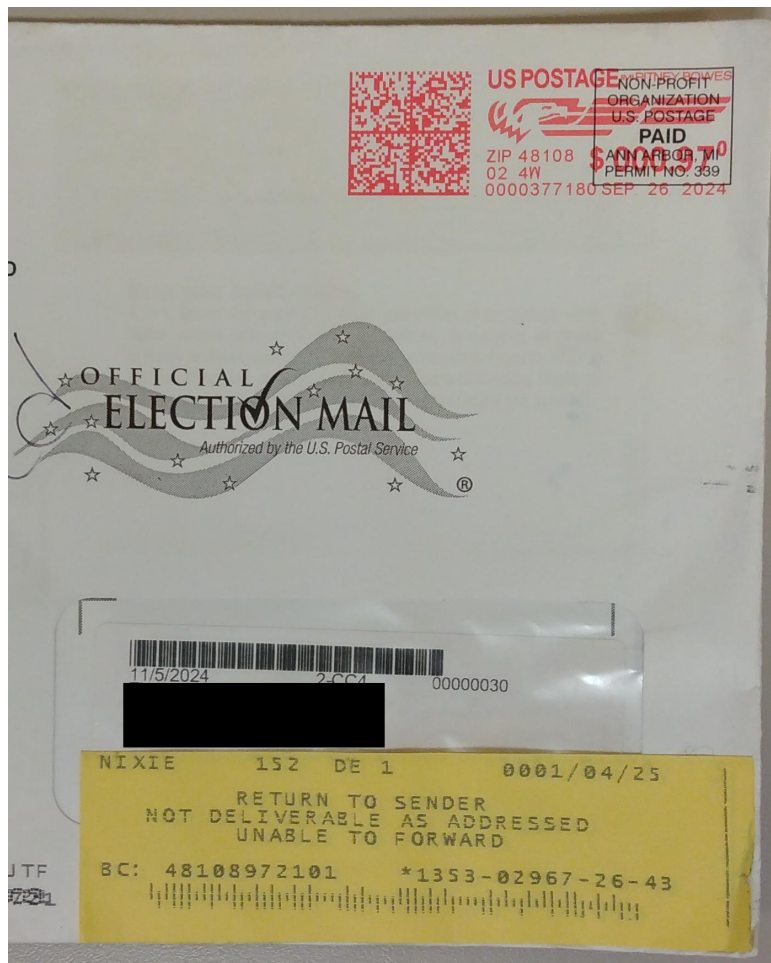
Special Cases

The examples below support the mail delivery time skew described previously. This is not an exhaustive list of observations; it is merely highlights. These examples were the exceptions, not the rule, with the intent only to bolster otherwise extraordinary statements above.

Ballot Transit, Clerk to Voter

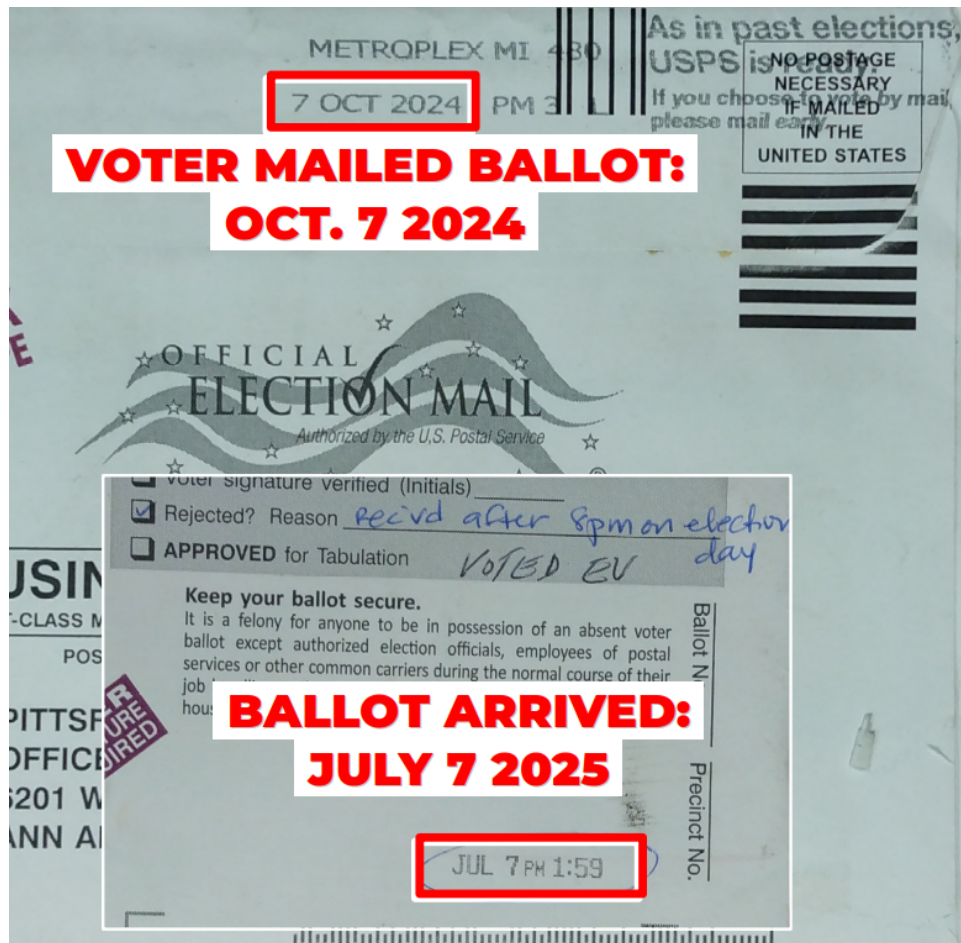
Ballot delivery time to the voter is generally unknown, but ballots deemed undeliverable are returned to the clerk. Mail delivery time for undeliverable ballots is known.

The undeliverable ballot shown below spent 100 days in the U.S. Postal system. It was returned as undeliverable in January of 2025, sixty-one days after the November 2024 election was over.



Ballot Transit, Voter to Clerk

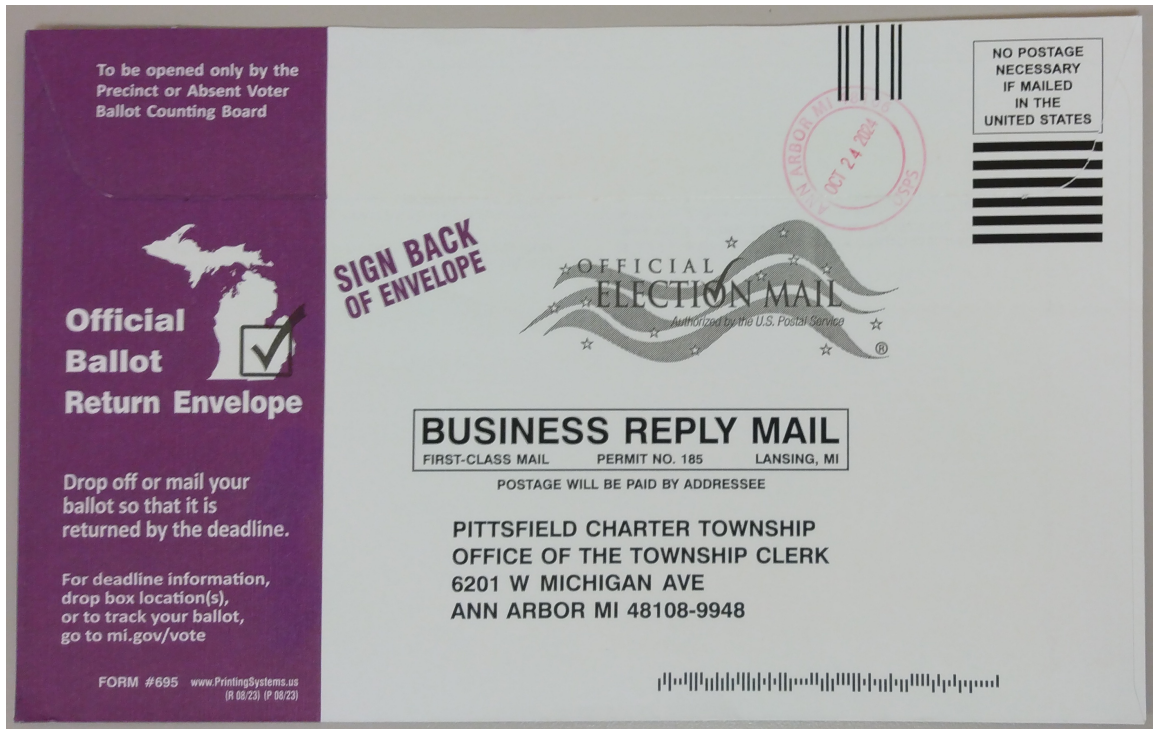
[updated 18 July 2025] The ballot envelope below is shown with front and back cropped. The voter mailed this ballot on October 7th 2024, roughly a month before the November Presidential election. This ballot and another (not shown) arrived at the clerk's office on July 7th 2025, 247 days after the election.



We have attached a letter from the National Association of Secretaries of States to the USPS Postmaster; page 2 references ballots returned **to the voter** when USPS declared their local election office as an undeliverable address.

Local Metroplex Bypass

This envelope shows a postmark from Ann Arbor but none from the Metroplex. This suggests the local postmaster may have bypassed the Metroplex, and delivered this envelope directly. Envelopes like this one were delivered much more quickly (see November 2024 results, above)





July 29, 2020

Honorable Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State
430 W. Allegan Street
4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933-1592

Dear Secretary Benson:

Re: Deadlines for Mailing Ballots

With the 2020 General Election rapidly approaching, this letter follows up on my letter dated May 29, 2020, which I sent to election officials throughout the country. That letter highlighted some key aspects of the Postal Service's delivery processes. The purpose of this letter is to focus specifically on the deadlines for requesting and casting ballots by mail. In particular, we wanted to note that, under our reading of Michigan's election laws, certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service's delivery standards. This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted under your laws as we understand them.

As I stated in my May 29 letter, the two main classes of mail that are used for ballots are First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail, the latter of which includes the Nonprofit postage rate. Voters must use First-Class Mail (or an expedited level of service) to mail their ballots and ballot requests, while state or local election officials may generally use either First-Class Mail or Marketing Mail to mail blank ballots to voters. While the specific transit times for either class of mail cannot be guaranteed, and depend on factors such as a given mailpiece's place of origin and destination, most domestic First-Class Mail is delivered 2-5 days after it is received by the Postal Service, and most domestic Marketing Mail is delivered 3-10 days after it is received.

To account for these delivery standards and to allow for contingencies (e.g., weather issues or unforeseen events), the Postal Service strongly recommends adhering to the following timeframe when using the mail to transmit ballots to domestic voters:

- **Ballot requests:** Where voters will both receive and send a ballot by mail, voters should submit their ballot request early enough so that it is received by their election officials at least 15 days before Election Day at a minimum, and preferably long before that time.
- **Mailing blank ballots to voters:** In responding to a ballot request, election officials should consider that the ballot needs to be in the hands of the voter so that he or she has adequate time to complete it and put it back in the mail stream so that it can be processed and delivered by the applicable deadline. Accordingly, the Postal Service recommends that election officials use First-Class Mail to transmit blank ballots and allow 1 week for delivery to voters. Using Marketing Mail will result in slower delivery times and will increase the risk that voters will not receive their ballots in time to return them by mail.

- **Mailing completed ballots to election officials:** To allow enough time for ballots to be returned to election officials, domestic voters should generally mail their completed ballots at least one week before the state's due date. So, if state law requires ballots to be returned by Election Day, voters should mail their ballots no later than Tuesday, October 27.

Under our reading of your state's election laws, as in effect on July 27, 2020, certain state-law requirements and deadlines appear to be incompatible with the Postal Service's delivery standards and the recommended timeframe noted above. As a result, to the extent that the mail is used to transmit ballots to and from voters, there is a significant risk that, at least in certain circumstances, ballots may be requested in a manner that is consistent with your election rules and returned promptly, and yet not be returned in time to be counted.

Specifically, it appears that a completed ballot must be received by Election Day to be counted. If that understanding is correct, we accordingly recommend, as noted above, that voters who choose to mail their ballots do so no later than Tuesday, October 27. However, it further appears that state law generally permits voters to apply by mail for a ballot until Election Day and provides that ballots will be mailed to voters until 4 days before the election. If a requested ballot is transmitted to the voter by mail at or near that 4-day deadline, there is a significant risk that the ballot will not reach the voter before Election Day, and accordingly that the voter will not be able to use the ballot to cast his or her vote. Even if a voter receives a ballot before Election Day, there is a significant risk that the voter will not have sufficient time to complete and mail the completed ballot back to election officials in time for it to arrive by the state's return deadline.

To be clear, the Postal Service is not purporting to definitively interpret the requirements of your state's election laws, and also is not recommending that such laws be changed to accommodate the Postal Service's delivery standards. By the same token, however, the Postal Service cannot adjust its delivery standards to accommodate the requirements of state election law. For this reason, the Postal Service asks that election officials keep the Postal Service's delivery standards and recommendations in mind when making decisions as to the appropriate means used to send a piece of Election Mail to voters, and when informing voters how to successfully participate in an election where they choose to use the mail. It is particularly important that voters be made aware of the transit times for mail (including mail-in ballots) so that they can make informed decisions about whether and when to (1) request a mail-in ballot, and (2) mail a completed ballot back to election officials.

We remain committed to sustaining the mail as a secure, efficient, and effective means to allow citizens to participate in the electoral process when election officials determine to utilize the mail as a part of their election system. Ensuring that you have an understanding of our operational capabilities and recommended timelines, and can educate voters accordingly, is important to achieving a successful election season. Please reach out to your assigned election mail coordinator to discuss the logistics of your mailings and the services that are available as well as any questions you may have. A list of election mail coordinators may be found on our website at: <https://about.usps.com/election-mail/politicaelection-mail-coordinators.pdf>.

We hope the information contained in this letter is helpful, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2)

Thomas J. Marshall



July 29, 2020

Honorable Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State
430 W. Allegan Street
4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933-1592

Dear Secretary Benson:

Re: Deadlines for Mailing Ballots

With the 2020 General Election rapidly approaching, this letter follows up on my letter dated May 29, 2020, which I sent to election officials throughout the country. That letter highlighted some key aspects of the Postal Service's delivery processes. The purpose of this letter is to focus specifically on the deadlines for requesting and casting ballots by mail. In particular, we wanted to note that, under our reading of Michigan's election laws, certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are incongruous with the Postal Service's delivery standards. This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted under your laws as we understand them.

As I stated in my May 29 letter, the two main classes of mail that are used for ballots are First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail, the latter of which includes the Nonprofit postage rate. Voters must use First-Class Mail (or an expedited level of service) to mail their ballots and ballot requests, while state or local election officials may generally use either First-Class Mail or Marketing Mail to mail blank ballots to voters. While the specific transit times for either class of mail cannot be guaranteed, and depend on factors such as a given mailpiece's place of origin and destination, most domestic First-Class Mail is delivered 2-5 days after it is received by the Postal Service, and most domestic Marketing Mail is delivered 3-10 days after it is received.

To account for these delivery standards and to allow for contingencies (e.g., weather issues or unforeseen events), the Postal Service strongly recommends adhering to the following timeframe when using the mail to transmit ballots to domestic voters:

- **Ballot requests:** Where voters will both receive and send a ballot by mail, voters should submit their ballot request early enough so that it is received by their election officials at least 15 days before Election Day at a minimum, and preferably long before that time.
- **Mailing blank ballots to voters:** In responding to a ballot request, election officials should consider that the ballot needs to be in the hands of the voter so that he or she has adequate time to complete it and put it back in the mail stream so that it can be processed and delivered by the applicable deadline. Accordingly, the Postal Service recommends that election officials use First-Class Mail to transmit blank ballots and allow 1 week for delivery to voters. Using Marketing Mail will result in slower delivery times and will increase the risk that voters will not receive their ballots in time to return them by mail.

- **Mailing completed ballots to election officials:** To allow enough time for ballots to be returned to election officials, domestic voters should generally mail their completed ballots at least one week before the state's due date. So, if state law requires ballots to be returned by Election Day, voters should mail their ballots no later than Tuesday, October 27.

Under our reading of your state's election laws, as in effect on July 27, 2020, certain state-law requirements and deadlines appear to be incompatible with the Postal Service's delivery standards and the recommended timeframe noted above. As a result, to the extent that the mail is used to transmit ballots to and from voters, there is a significant risk that, at least in certain circumstances, ballots may be requested in a manner that is consistent with your election rules and returned promptly, and yet not be returned in time to be counted.

Specifically, it appears that a completed ballot must be received by Election Day to be counted. If that understanding is correct, we accordingly recommend, as noted above, that voters who choose to mail their ballots do so no later than Tuesday, October 27. However, it further appears that state law generally permits voters to apply by mail for a ballot until Election Day and provides that ballots will be mailed to voters until 4 days before the election. If a requested ballot is transmitted to the voter by mail at or near that 4-day deadline, there is a significant risk that the ballot will not reach the voter before Election Day, and accordingly that the voter will not be able to use the ballot to cast his or her vote. Even if a voter receives a ballot before Election Day, there is a significant risk that the voter will not have sufficient time to complete and mail the completed ballot back to election officials in time for it to arrive by the state's return deadline.

To be clear, the Postal Service is not purporting to definitively interpret the requirements of your state's election laws, and also is not recommending that such laws be changed to accommodate the Postal Service's delivery standards. By the same token, however, the Postal Service cannot adjust its delivery standards to accommodate the requirements of state election law. For this reason, the Postal Service asks that election officials keep the Postal Service's delivery standards and recommendations in mind when making decisions as to the appropriate means used to send a piece of Election Mail to voters, and when informing voters how to successfully participate in an election where they choose to use the mail. It is particularly important that voters be made aware of the transit times for mail (including mail-in ballots) so that they can make informed decisions about whether and when to (1) request a mail-in ballot, and (2) mail a completed ballot back to election officials.

We remain committed to sustaining the mail as a secure, efficient, and effective means to allow citizens to participate in the electoral process when election officials determine to utilize the mail as a part of their election system. Ensuring that you have an understanding of our operational capabilities and recommended timelines, and can educate voters accordingly, is important to achieving a successful election season. Please reach out to your assigned election mail coordinator to discuss the logistics of your mailings and the services that are available as well as any questions you may have. A list of election mail coordinators may be found on our website at: <https://about.usps.com/election-mail/politicaelection-mail-coordinators.pdf>.

We hope the information contained in this letter is helpful, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2)

Thomas J. Marshall



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

September 11, 2024

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

Dear Postmaster DeJoy:

On behalf of state and local election officials in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, we write to express our ongoing concerns about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) performance as we approach the November 5, 2024 General Election. Over the course of the last year, election officials across the country have raised serious questions about processing facility operations, lost or delayed election mail, and front-line training deficiencies impacting USPS's ability to deliver election mail in a timely and accurate manner. 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 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.

Inconsistent Training for USPS Staff

Election officials nationwide report USPS staff, from Managers of Customer Relations to local postal carriers, are uninformed about USPS policies around election mail. This has led to inconsistent guidance given to election officials, as well as ballots being deliberately held to remediate erroneous billing issues, significantly delayed, or otherwise improperly processed. In some cases, this has resulted in mis-delivery of ballots such that voters are disenfranchised.

USPS has more than 600,000 employees, and election officials recognize the challenges associated with training such a large staff. The frequency and widespread distribution of training-related issues, however, make it clear these are not one-off mistakes or a problem with specific facilities. Instead, it demonstrates a pervasive lack of understanding and enforcement of USPS policies among its employees.

Exceptionally Long Delivery Times

Election officials have engaged in rigorous efforts over the last several years to emphasize the importance of voters requesting and returning ballots by mail early,



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

especially considering the changes to First-Class delivery standards codified by the Delivering for America plan. In nearly every state, however, local election officials are receiving timely postmarked ballots well after Election Day and well outside the three to five business days USPS claims as the First-Class delivery standard. For example, election officials in multiple states report receiving anywhere from dozens to hundreds of ballots 10 or more days after postmark. There is no amount of proactive communication election officials can do to account for USPS's inability to meet their own service delivery timelines.

Increase in Mail Returned as Undeliverable

Election officials report mail sent to voters is being marked as undeliverable at higher than usual rates, even in cases where a voter is known not to have moved. This has affected a range of election mail, including informational mailers about critical election information and voter address confirmation cards, as well as ballots. In other cases, ballots sent to election offices are being returned to the voter with the election office address marked as undeliverable. This is happening nationwide despite mail piece design approval from USPS Mail Piece Design Analysts.

Election mail returned to an election office as undeliverable could initiate the voter registration list maintenance process consistent with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993. As a result, a voter may be moved to the inactive voter registration list and could be required to take additional action to verify their address to participate in the election. Thus, the increase in undeliverable mail raises two significant issues: (1) the potential disenfranchisement of voters whose ballots are not delivered to them or to their election office, and (2) putting eligible voters on the path to having their voter registration record canceled.

We do appreciate the steps that will be taken by USPS as part of the Extraordinary Measures procedures immediately before and after the November general election, though we would suggest beginning the implementation of Extraordinary Measures at least a month prior to the November election. Important election mailings are sent year-round, however, and lasting improvements to election mail processing require continuous attention and emphasis. Temporary measures will not be sufficient to address the persistent issues highlighted by election officials.

State and local election officials need a committed partner in USPS. We implore you to take immediate and tangible corrective action to address the ongoing performance issues with USPS election mail service. Failure to do so will risk limiting voter participation and trust in the election process.



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

We look forward to seeing your plans and sharing them with election officials as soon as possible. They can be shared with Leslie Reynolds, NASS Executive Director (reynolds@nass.org), and Amy Cohen, NASED Executive Director (acohen@nased.org). Please reach out if we may provide any assistance or feedback during this process.

Sincerely,

Hon. Steve Simon
NASS President
Minnesota Secretary of State

Hon. Michael Watson
NASS President-elect
Mississippi Secretary of State

Mandy Vigil
NASED President
State Elections Director
New Mexico Secretary of State

Bryan Caskey
NASED Incoming President
Director of Elections
Kansas Secretary of State

Christopher Prue, CEA
President, Registrars of Voters
Association of Connecticut

Travis Hart
President, Florida Supervisors of
Elections

Molly Fitzpatrick
President, Colorado County Clerks
Association

W. Travis Doss, Jr.
President, Georgia Association of
Voter Registration and Election
Officials



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

Elizabeth J. Greendale

Destry R. Richey
President, Indiana Northern District
Clerk's Association

Elizabeth Turner Greendale
President, Massachusetts Town Clerks
Association

Rebecca Bissell

Becky Bissell
President, Iowa State Association of
County Auditors

Melanie D. Ryska

Melanie Ryska
President, Michigan Association of
Municipal Clerks

Rick Piepho

Rick Piepho
President, Kansas County Clerks and
Election Officials Association
(KCCEO)

Elizabeth Hundley

Elizabeth Hundley
President, Michigan Association of
County Clerks

Steve Raborn

Steve Raborn
President, Louisiana Registrars of
Voters Association

Teresa Barksdale
President, Mississippi Circuit Clerk's
Association

Tracey O'Roak

Tracey O'Roak
President, Maine Town and City
Clerks' Association

Sissy Smitherman

Sissy J. Smitherman
President, Election Commissioners'
Association of Mississippi

Sergio Cornelio

Sergio Cornelio
President, Massachusetts City Clerk's
Association

Sherry Parks
President, Missouri Association of
County Clerks and Election Authorities
(MACCEA)



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

Sarah J. Freidel

Sarah J. Freidel
President, Nebraska Association of
County Clerks, Register of Deeds and
Election Commissioners

Paul Adams

Paul Adams
President, Ohio Association of Election
Officials

Shona L. Mack-Pollock

Shona L. Mack-Pollock
President, New Jersey Association of
Election Officials

Nick Lima

Nick Lima
Chair, Elections Committee, Rhode
Island Town and City Clerks'
Association

Steve Peter

Steve Peter
Incoming President, Constitutional
Officers Association of New Jersey

Isaac Cramer

Isaac Cramer
President, South Carolina Association
of Registration and Election Officials

Rosangela Ortiz

Rosangela Ortiz
Chair, New Mexico Clerk Affiliate, New
Mexico Counties

Jennifer Doinoff

Jennifer Doinoff
President, Texas Association of
County Election Officials

Sara LaVere

Sara LaVere
President, North Carolina Association
of Directors of Elections

Traci S. Clark

Traci S. Clark
President, Voter Registrars Association
of Virginia

Sally Whittingham

Sally Whittingham
President, North Dakota Auditors &
Treasurers Association



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
STATE ELECTION DIRECTORS

Paul Andrews
President, Washington State
Association of County Auditors

Malcolm Ervin
President, County Clerks' Association
of Wyoming

CC:

- Amber McReynolds, Vice Chair, USPS Board of Governors
- Ron Strohman, Member, USPS Board of Governors
- Adrienne Marshall, Director, Election and Political Mail, USPS
- Steve Monteith, Chief Customer and Marketing Officer and Executive Vice President, USPS
- Brendan Donahue, Assistant Inspector in Charge – Criminal Investigations Group, US Postal Inspection Service
- Geoff Guska, Assistant Special Agent in Charge - Criminal Intelligence Program Coordination Division, USPS Office of the Inspector General
- Caitlin Durkovich, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor for Resilience and Response, National Security Council
- Justin Vail, Special Assistant to the President for Democracy and Civic Participation, Domestic Policy Council
- Ben Hovland, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- Don Palmer, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
- U.S. House Committee on House Administration
- U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
- U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
- U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
- U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary

LETTER SENT VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL