

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

MEMORANDUM



From the Office of President Mark Dimondstein
1300 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

September 22, 2020

To: APWU Leaders

Re: Vote-By-Mail

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We are quickly approaching the peak of election season. This year, because of the pandemic, the Postal Service and election authorities anticipate a considerable increase in the number of ballots sent and returned by mail.

As postal workers, we're proud to have securely facilitated vote-by-mail for generations. We know that it's postal workers who make vote-by-mail work!

This year's election will also be different in one other important way. Some politicians, including President Trump, have attempted to sow doubt on the Postal Service's ability to securely and reliably handle mail-in ballots. Coupled with the popular outrage over management's directives which have slowed down the mail, we've seen unprecedented public attention focused on vote-by-mail.

No matter the context or the political environment, our commitment is to securely and promptly accept, process, transport and deliver election mail. As a reminder of some the key policies regarding the handling of ballots and other political mail, we've produced the enclosed flyers. Please post them in union halls, on bulletin boards and ensure stewards and other leaders receive a copy.

This year, postal workers will literally provide access to the ballot box for millions of voters. The success of vote-by-mail depends on all of us!

Election Mail Procedures



YOU play a vital role in the Vote-By-Mail process.



Election Mail should be treated as First-Class Mail and expedited through the network with timely processing. Willful delay of absentee balloting material or other election material is a violation of policy, ethics, and the law.

Expedited processing and delivery of election related mail is crucial to our democratic process. It is critical that all ballot mail is handled correctly to avoid any negative impact on election results or the Postal Service.

- Be alert for the red Tag 57 and green Tag 191, even though their use is optional. Political mail, with or without the use of a Tag, must be expedited.
- Any delays in processing of political campaign mail must be reported.

Election Day – Final Sweep

A final sweep of post offices and plant locations is required, allowing the voting registration officials in a state or the District of Columbia to collect any late Business Reply Mail (BRM) ballots.

All Business Reply Mail will be made available to the Registrar of Voters for collection from their PO Boxes or via Caller Service pickup – even if the BRM mail has not been invoiced.

Handling Absentee Ballots with Insufficient or No Postage

Do not let ballots be delayed for any reason. Ballots are not subject to the normal postage due procedures, and should never be delayed due to insufficient postage.

Absentee ballots are handled differently than other unpaid or short-paid mailpieces. Absentee ballots addressed to an election office, with or without sufficient postage, must be delivered. The ballots must not be delayed, detained or held for postage payment.

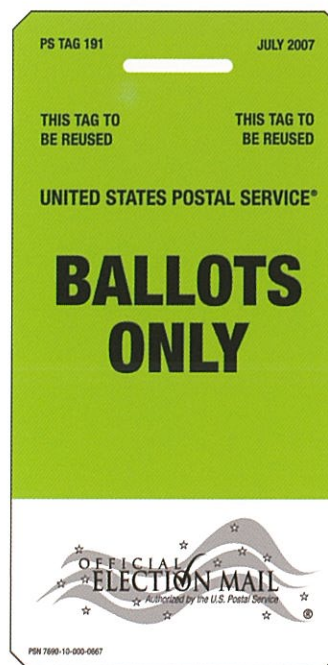
It is very important that ballots are identified and processed timely to ensure ballots are returned to election offices within the allotted time for the vote to be counted.

Your attention to detail makes Vote-By-Mail work!

Tag 57



Tag 191



Mark Dimondstein, National President
Vance Zimmerman, Industrial Relations Director