

**SCOTT SCHWAB**  
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor  
120 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(785) 296-4564  
sos.kansas.gov

## STATE OF KANSAS

September 24, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster DeJoy,

I am in receipt of a letter from the USPS dated September 13, 2024 (and attached), which purports to be responsive to the concerns my office has raised to you regarding the USPS's failure to postmark election ballots and failure to deliver those ballots timely. Both actions disenfranchised Kansas voters during the state's August primary election, and I am seeking your assurance this will not occur in the November 5 general election. To date, I am disappointed in the USPS's response.

I am deeply troubled by the statement in your letter that the USPS is unaware of the issues I raised regarding late delivery of mail. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Bryan Caskey, the Director of Elections in my office, sent an email to Adrienne Marshall, Steven Carter, and Darrin Gadson concerning the late arrival of 193 ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received on the Monday following the election. The email contained details on when those ballots were given to the USPS for delivery. Ms. Marshall's first response was on August 19<sup>th</sup>. A series of communications between my office, the county election office, and national and regional post office employees occurred over a period of two weeks.

The USPS letter also notes the postal service does not postmark or "cancel" every piece of mail in the system. Yet this statement is in direct contradiction to your website, which states "The Postal Service's policy is to postmark all ballots mailed by voters, whether they are prepaid by election officials or mailed with a stamp affixed by the voter" and raises broader concerns about what other time sensitive mail, such as tax returns, is treated similarly. If there is a USPS policy that not every piece of mail is not postmarked, the USPS should be transparent about this policy so customers, and especially voters, can make the appropriate decision when choosing to return their ballot. Failure to do so further undermines voter confidence in election processes.

Finally, while the USPS claims it will introduce “proven extraordinary measures” to enhance the delivery of mail in ballots, no explanation was provided about what these measures are and how these will address the concerns raised in our September 9 letter.

It is unfortunate that the USPS missed the opportunity to respond to voters for failing to deliver their ballots, expressed unawareness of the problem which has previously been brought to their attention, and offered no substantive solution to correct this problem.

I request the USPS provide a substantive response and solution so voters who must rely on the postal service to deliver their ballots in November can do so with confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Schwab".

Scott Schwab  
Kansas Secretary of State

Enclosure

cc:

Senator Jerry Moran

Senator Roger Marshall

Representative Ron Estes

Representative Jake LaTurner

Representative Tracey Mann

Representative Sharice Davids