

From: [Belt, David C - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rep Rayfield](#)
Cc: [Glass, Justin - Washington, DC](#); [Rogers, Danny M - PORTLAND, OR](#); [Brownlie, Caroline R - Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Postmarks
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:01:53 PM
Attachments: [POMO Rollover Times for Automated and Manual Cancellations.pdf](#)

Dear Representative Rayfield:

A postmark is an official Postal Service imprint applied in ink on the address side of a stamped mailpiece. A postmark indicates the date on which the Postal Service collected or otherwise accepted custody of a mailpiece, and it cancels affixed postage. In recognition of the importance that the election laws in some states place on postmarks, Postal Service policy is to try to ensure that every ballot mailed by a voter receives a postmark and we instruct our employees throughout the country to adhere to that practice.

Again, the date stamp on the postmark is the Postal Service's official representation of the **date** on which the Postal Service collected or otherwise accepted custody of a mailpiece. The postmark does **not** contain a "time stamp" indicating the time of day on which a mailpiece was collected or the postmark was applied. Any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate.

Finally, to support the accuracy of the postmark date as the date on which the Postal Service accepted custody of a mailpiece, our processing machines are programmed with "rollover times" that are set later than midnight. Accordingly, where a ballot is collected on a given date, it will receive a postmark reflecting that date even if the automation machines that apply the postmarks need to be run beyond midnight. See the attached Processing Operations Management Order, dated October 5, 2020, which contains the technical explanation of the "rollover" policy.

We hope this information is helpful.

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