

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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I work in a position where I advise other companies on their business practices. As a result, I see and hear a lot of what multiple companies (who don't want to be harassed and will thus remain anonymous in this testimony) have to go through here in Oregon. During Election season (April through November) I often advise companies to pay their bills three to four weeks out due to "delays" in the mail caused by mail-in voting. To say that this practice is not a burden on our local commerce would be an understatement.

But that is not the reason I oppose mail-in voting. What I have seen, over the 25 years of experience here in Oregon, is that, somewhere in the chain of possession between the mailer and the recipient, mail goes missing far too frequently during election season. Many of the companies I have worked with complain of an increase in payments that do not make it to their debtors, or bills that do not make it to the businesses who need to pay them.

What is more suspicious is that this mail quite often re-appears at the end of November. Right after the deadline for mail-in ballots to be received by local jurisdictions. Since these missing payments and bills are all dated, it has become quite obvious to a lot of my contacts in the business world that entire batches of mail tend to get "stored" somewhere in the weeks leading up to an election...only to be released after the election results are solidified.

I have my own experience with this outside the business world, when I mailed out party invitations to family throughout the Willamette Valley. Despite placing the entire batch of envelopes into the same mailbox to be mailed, only half of the invitations ever made it in time for the party. The others arrived significantly later—right after the May primaries. Knowing who I mailed to, we were able to cross-reference the political alignment of the counties those invitations were mailed to. Surprise! The invitations were far more likely to be lost if mailed to conservative districts.

You can argue that there is nothing "suspicious" about this pattern, that conservative mail is harder to deliver because it's often "rural", and that mail often slows down not because entire pallets of ballots are being "stored" but because those ballots are causing a greater workload to the postal system. None of that, however, denies that a dependence on mail-in elections causes these problems.