

**Statement of
Karen Tucker, National Election Mail Coordinator
United States Postal Service
Before the
Pennsylvania House State Government Committee
Philadelphia
September 25, 2008**

Majority Chairman Josephs and members of the Pennsylvania House State Government Committee I am happy to be here today and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of the United States Postal Service regarding the Postal Service's election mail program.

From the perspective of the Postal Service, we recognize the vital role that mail plays in the American democratic process and we are extremely proud to be able to participate in this process. The most basic activity in our innovative system of self government is the selection of our leaders through the ballot box. And with our basic mission "to bind the Nation together through the correspondence of the people," we at the Postal Service are excited about the opportunity to serve the growing numbers of Americans who choose to cast their ballots through the mailbox.

We recognize that our role has expanded, through the greater use of absentee voting in more and more

jurisdictions, and through the switch to all mail voting in Oregon, and most of the counties in the State of Washington. We understand that this role may continue to expand, as other states explore aspects of "Vote by Mail." And we recognize that mail can enhance the election process, helping to reduce election costs while contributing to higher voter turnout.

States have the responsibility and the accountability for running elections and it is not the role of the Postal Service to say how elections are conducted. However, when states use the mail for voter registration or choose to conduct elections by mail, the Postal Service is ready to do everything it can to make sure voters experience a smooth, well-organized process – one that provides them with the highest levels of trust and confidence when they cast their ballots by mail. To this end, we have developed a national Election Mail program which has as its primary objectives:

- To understand the mailing needs of the nation's Election Officials;
- To provide easy access to postal products, services and information to meet those needs;
- To educate postal employees on the importance and proper handling of election mail pieces;
- To work with state and local Election Officials to develop new ideas for innovation.



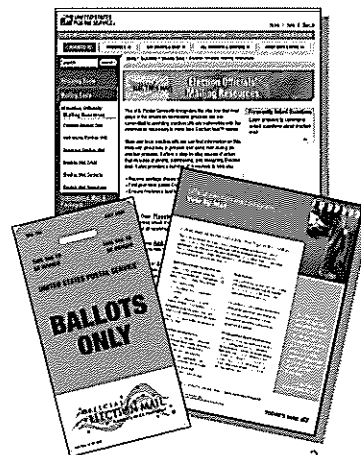
Election 2008

**Pennsylvania State Government
Committee Hearing
Election Preparedness
September 25, 2008**

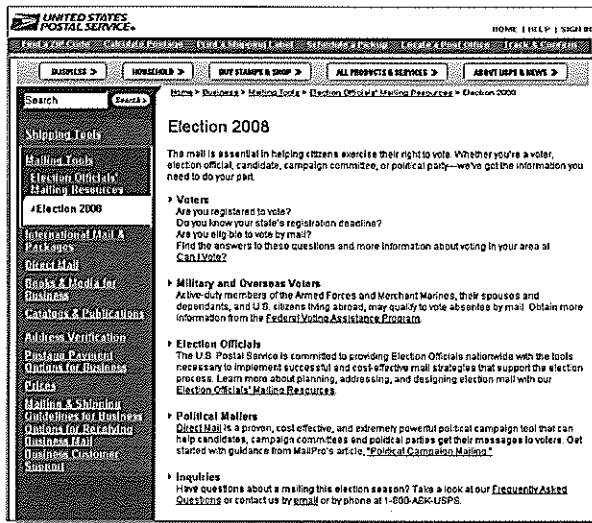
**Karen Tucker
United States Postal Service
National Election Mail Coordinator
Washington, DC**

Election '08 Action Plan

- National Task Force
- Cross-functional team
- Standard operating procedures
- Election Official education
- Conference participation
- Employee Training
- Special procedures for military and overseas ballots
- Process for responding to election mail issues
- Ongoing internal and external communications



usps.com



5

Building Relationships

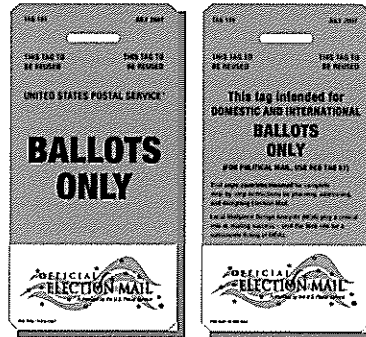
- National Association Secretaries of State (NASS)
- National Association of State Election Directors (NASED)
- International Association of Clerks, Recorder, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT)
- The Election Center



6

Ballots - Tag 191

- Domestic and International Ballots only
- Greater visibility during USPS handling and distribution
- Available at local Post Office or business mail entry unit (BME)



7

APO/FPO Special Procedures

- Sept 15th - Nov 3rd
- USPS and Military Postal Service
- Special handling for all Military and Overseas Absentee Ballots
- Post Offices send ballots to nearest Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC)
- P&DC expedite ballots via Express Mail® network to International Service Centers (ISC)
- ISCs provide accelerated sortation, special tray identification and priority transportation



8

Mail Security

- USPS rated #1 agency Americans trust to protect their privacy
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
 - Federal law enforcement agency
 - Protect, secure & trust
- Office of Inspector General
 - Protect and maintain the integrity of postal processes and personnel



9

“The answer to the nation's voting anxiety is not a national standard that imposes new rules on an outdated system of polling places. The answer is a low-tech, low-cost, reliable and convenient system that makes it easier to vote and easier to count votes. The answer is Vote-by-Mail.”

Honorable Bill Bradbury
Secretary of State Oregon
Washington Post

10