The Vote-by-Mail Task Force proposes a new class of service for voter centric mail. Mail from election administrators to voters and voted ballots from voters shall be based upon First-Class services at nonprofit rates.

First-Class mail service at a reduced “Election Class” rate would ensure compliance with the rules of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA). It would increase the volume of pieces handled by the USPS and simplify the handling of election mail. If a mailing does not qualify for nonprofit rates, election mail will be sent at the new “Election Class” rate.

Who qualifies

Government agencies responsible for conducting elections and qualified to use the USPS Elections Logo. No registration is necessary for election administrators.

Voters returning voted ballots

What qualifies for “Election Class”

Voter centric mail from Election Administrators

Election specific
- Ballots
- Sample ballots
- Voter pamphlets
- Absentee request forms
- Notices of election
- Other election specific communications

Voter registration
- Voter list maintenance pieces
- Voter registration cards
- Voter registration correspondence
- Voter registration applications
- Other voter registration communications

Voter centric mail addressed to Election Administrators

Voted ballots weighing up to 3.3 ounces require a single First-Class stamp
What doesn’t qualify for “Election Class”

 Bill payments
 Vendor communications
 Payroll checks
 Office correspondence
 Other non voter centric mailings
 Any mail sent to Election Administrators except a voted ballot

Piece requirements

 Each piece must be machineable
 Maximum piece weight 3.3 ounces
 Mail piece design compliance with USPS standards
 Required use of IMb for automated mailings
 Must comply with state and federal election law
 Mail piece must display the official USPS Election Mail Logo
 Reply mail must display election specific FIM
 IMb will include a service code identifying “Election Class” mail

Rates

 Automated and presorted mail at nonprofit rates
 Single piece rate at half the cost of a First-Class stamp
 One ounce First-Class stamp for voted ballots up to 3.3 ounces
 First-Class ancillary services fee schedule applies

Service level

 One to three day average delivery time
 First-Class ancillary services included
 Rules of inspection for First-Class mail apply
 All other First-Class services

Technical requirements

 Create IMb service codes for “Election Class” mail
 Create election specific FIMs
 Exempt NCOA/Move Update requirement for outbound ballots
   o Creates delivery failure of ballots
   o Voters don’t always want a change of address applied to their ballot
 Preserve the use of green tags, at mailer's option
**Grandfather clause**

Effective upon implementation of “Election Class” mail, jurisdictions with existing nonprofit status are grandfathered and will retain nonprofit mailing status.

**Summary**

“Election Class” mail service will provide efficiencies to the USPS.

- Increase the volume of mail
  - Provides incentive for jurisdictions to convert from in person voting to Vote-by-Mail
  - Provides less incentive for electronic ballot delivery
- Decrease the need to verify compliance
- Reduce voter confusion when returning voted ballots
- Less handling will be required, thereby reducing costs
- Linked to existing rate structure
- Pieces are easily identifiable with the logo, FIM and IMb service codes
- Will improve customer relations