

**2021 Post-Election Analysis:**

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**TIMELY AND  
SECURE DELIVERY  
OF THE NATION'S  
ELECTION MAIL**



**99.95%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED FROM  
VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS WITHIN SEVEN  
DAYS

**99.89%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED  
FROM VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS WITHIN FIVE  
DAYS

**99.31%**

OF BALLOTS DELIVERED FROM  
VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS WITHIN THREE  
DAYS

**2.2**

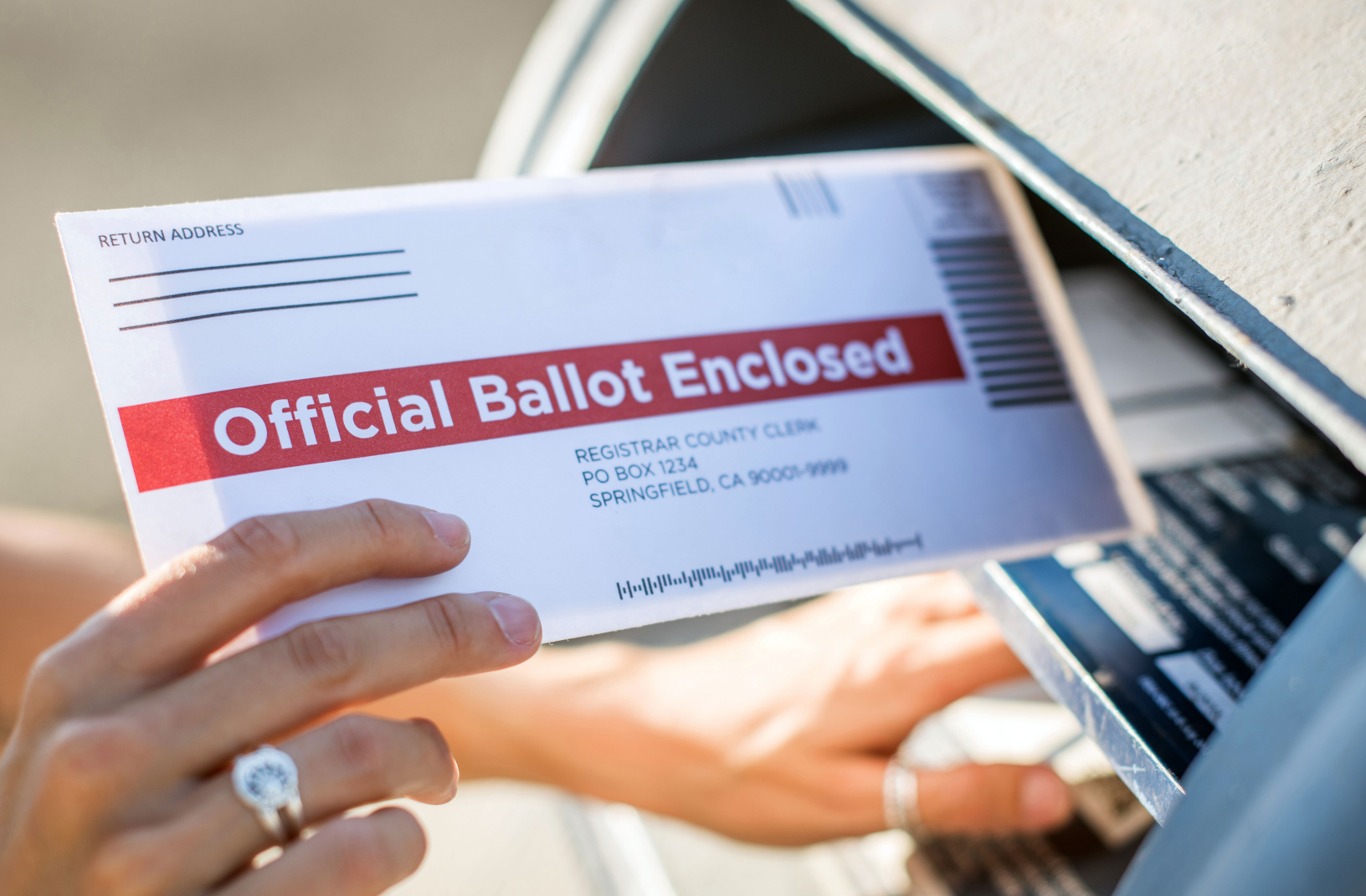
DAYS ON AVERAGE TO  
DELIVER BALLOTS FROM  
ELECTION OFFICIALS TO  
VOTERS

**1.4**

DAYS ON AVERAGE TO  
DELIVER BALLOTS FROM  
VOTERS TO ELECTION  
OFFICIALS

**28.2M**

MEASURED BALLOTS  
DELIVERED TO OR FROM  
VOTERS IN THE 2021 ELECTION  
CYCLE



# Supporting Elections That Leverage the U.S. Mail

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**In the 2020 election cycle, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Postal Service effectively managed unprecedented ballot mail volumes, which were nearly double those of the 2016 general election.** The Postal Service proved to be flexible enough to respond to unique challenges by bolstering and enhancing our established and proven practices in the face of dramatically changed circumstances. Our efforts and results are documented in detail in our 2020 post-election analysis: Delivering the Nation's Election Mail in an Extraordinary Year [[https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/usps\\_postelectionanalysis\\_1-12-21\\_georgia.pdf](https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2021/usps_postelectionanalysis_1-12-21_georgia.pdf)].

For the Fall 2021 elections, we applied lessons learned from 2020 and invested in substantial planning, including in-person instruction and online tutorials, to ensure that our employees were knowledgeable and prepared for the secure handling and on-time delivery of ballots and other election mail in Fall 2021.

The United States Postal Service delivered more than 63 million ballots (of which the transit times for 28.2 million were measured end-to-end) through the U.S. Mail to support elections across the country in 2021, and in doing so met public and election official expectations for the security and timeliness of those ballots entrusted to our care.

The busy off-year Fall 2021 election cycle included statewide general elections in three states — California, New Jersey, and Virginia — as well as one primary election in the state of Florida and two special elections in the state of Ohio. The Postal Service additionally supported local elections throughout the country in the Fall of 2021, and we retained the impressive reliability standards of the 2020 general elections.

Of all completed measured ballots sent by voters to election officials in the Fall 2021 cycle, 99.31 percent were delivered within three days, 99.89 percent were delivered within five days and 99.95 percent were delivered within seven days. Importantly, we delivered completed ballots from voters to election officials in an average of just 1.4 days.

As with previous election cycles, we prioritized ballots and conducted regular sweeps in our facilities to ensure ballots were moving quickly through the postal processing and distribution system. We coordinated special deliveries and provided postal workers with the support and training to handle election mail efficiently and securely. We additionally worked closely with election officials to ensure solid planning and practices were in place to best leverage the mail system and to promote transparency and strengthen working relationships.

Despite an operating environment impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, significant planning efforts and long-term experience with handling election mail ensured excellent performance during the election cycle. Credit especially is due to the thousands of hard-working women and men of the Postal Service, whose dedication and diligence helped ensure that the Postal Service effectively fulfilled its indispensable mission in the electoral process.

In every election cycle, the Postal Service's primary concern is the secure and timely delivery of ballots and other election mail, and we continually assess our operations and processes to ensure we meet this fundamental public expectation. We additionally expect increased

use of mail-in voting options based on voting method trends from the 2020 and 2021 election cycles.

As we look forward, we continue to strengthen an internal election mail team dedicated to operational execution, outreach and problem-solving. The election mail team is the primary group responsible for assisting with ballots and other election mail, working with a cross-functional group of members from across our organization, fostering and developing strong relationships with election officials to share policies and best practices and respond to any issues and concerns. We are also creating a permanent election and government mail structure to support the election mail community and ensure the highest performance in fulfilling our essential role for election officials and voters year-round.

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**“We take great pride in delivering the nation’s election mail securely and on-time — it is a sacred civic duty that we fully embrace.”**

— **Louis DeJoy**, Postmaster General

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Additionally, as we optimize our network and institute new procedures and service standards as part of our 10-year Delivering for America plan, we will further enhance the ability of the Postal Service's readiness to support the secure and on-time delivery of nation's election mail.

# OBSERVATIONS OF ELECTION MAIL CONDITIONS IN 2021: KEY STATISTICS

# 3

## GENERAL ELECTIONS

California  
New Jersey  
Virginia

# 2

## SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Ohio

# 1

## PRIMARY ELECTION

Florida

# 28M\*

## MEASURED BALLOTS PROCESSED

We delivered 99.91 percent of ballots within seven days, consistent with the guidance we provided voters throughout the election cycle; and delivered 99.31 percent of ballots from voters to election officials within three days.

\*28 million includes only those ballots that were properly identified as ballots using the correct electronic identifiers, and does not include many of the ballots that the Postal Service diverted from its processing network in an effort to accelerate delivery. The Postal Service estimates that it processed a total of more than 63 million ballots. Geographies Covered: All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

# 1.4

## DAYS ON AVERAGE TO DELIVER RETURN BALLOTS

# 2.2

## DAYS ON AVERAGE TO DELIVER OUTBOUND BALLOTS

