

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE
Secretary of State

MARK A. WLASCHIN
Deputy Secretary for Operations

STATE OF NEVADA



**OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

SCOTT W. ANDERSON
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

October 22, 2020

Mr. Austin Evers
records@americanovresight.org

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Evers,

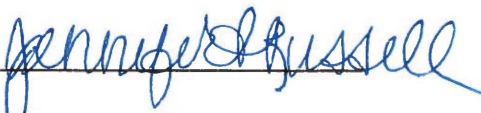
The office of the Nevada Secretary of State has reviewed your request for records pertaining to the September 17th meeting with Postmaster General DeJoy arranged by NASS. The date range that was searched is from September 15 to October 12, 2020.

We are providing 5 pages of responsive email communications.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Cegavske
Secretary of State

By: 

Jennifer A. Russell
Public Information Officer

From: [Reynolds, Leslie](#)
To: [Reynolds, Leslie](#)
Cc: [Dodd, Stacy](#); [Milhofer, John](#); [Maria Benson](#); [Lindsey Forson](#)
Subject: NASS Elections Committee: Call Reminder for Tomorrow at 2:30PM ET with US Postmaster General DeJoy, Reminder - NASS Tech Talk Tomorrow at 4PM ET
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:57:17 PM
Attachments: [NASS Weekly Elections Committee Call - 9172020 .msg](#)
[NASS Tech Talk - September 2020 .msg](#)
Importance: High

Dear NASS Elections Committee, IT Directors and Communications Directors:

NASS Elections Committee Call Reminder at 2:30 PM ET– with US Postmaster General DeJoy

Don't forget our call tomorrow at 2:30PM ET. Calendar invite is attached. It will be best if you login in to GoToMeeting as opposed to calling in, so we can see who is participating and you can be acknowledged utilizing the chat feature. NASED will be joining us for this call to ensure that all chief state election officials are included.

NASS Tech Talk Reminder – Tomorrow at 4PM ET

Please be sure to remind your IT folks to login into the NASS Tech Talk tomorrow at 4PM ET. Discussion topics will include the new DHS/CISA Crossfeed Program. We learned about this program last week on the Elections Committee call. Remember this program will begin shortly and **you need to opt-out if you do not want to participate.**

We look forward to “seeing” you tomorrow.

Best,
Leslie

Leslie D. Reynolds
Executive Director
National Association of Secretaries of State
444 N. Capitol Street, NW Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
202-624-3525
reynolds@sso.org
www.nass.org

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).

NASS Elections Committee Conference Call

September 17, 2020

Call began at 2:30PM ET

NASS Executive Director Leslie Reynolds announced the call was not for the press and if any press members were on the call they must log off. Sec. LaRose welcomed members of the NASS Elections Committee and NASED and Sec. Toulouse Oliver welcomed the US Postmaster General (PMG). She provided background on the call she, Sec. Benson, Sec. LaRose and Sec. Ashcroft had with the PMG on August 27th and introduced the PMG to speak. The PMG also announced colleagues joining him: David Williams, Chief Logistics & Processing Operations Officer; Tom Marshall, General Counsel; and Justin Glass, Director of Election Mail Operations.

Postmaster DeJoy noted the following in his remarks:

- Election mail is USPS' number one priority and they has the capacity to handle whatever volume of election mail they receive.
- The purpose of the recent postcard mailing was to educate and inform voters on voting by mail without getting into state specific rules and regulations. USPS originally intended to give election officials an opportunity to review the mailing before it went out, but ultimately it was sent out the same day it was sent to NASS for review. USPS realizes that it was not enough of a heads up and will do better in the future.
- As a result of the mailing almost 750,000 people have visited USPS.com for voting information, with 250,000 visitors also going to usa.gov, which connects them to election offices.

Mr. Glass noted the following in his remarks:

- USPS operational readiness is focused on ensuring election mail is handled in compliance with establishes processes.
- Operational efforts for election mail include emphasizing communication with USPS employees to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and tools for processing and delivering election mail. USPS is partnering with union leaders on these efforts and have expanded the election mail task force to include union leaders and management associations. Local task force teams have "ballot ambassadors" that share feedback from employees on any issues related to ballots.
- Standard tools to track election mail include election mail logs, clean sweep searches, checklists, daily all clear processes, and intelligent barcodes. Additional efforts include weekly service reviews to identify mail flow issues, weekly election mail webinars with USPS leaders, and compliance observation by the postal inspection service.
- USPS recognizes that many states require a postmark for ballots. Traditionally a postmark or cancellation is for the purpose of rendering the postage unusable in the future. The process is not designed to cancel every mail piece, and certain types of business mail and permit mailings can bypass the postmark process. However, USPS' policy has been to postmark or cancel all ballots, regardless of origin, destination, or method of post payment. USPS will continue to train employees to monitor the flow of ballots and ensure they receive a postmark.
- USPS convened a postmark team to analyze data and feedback from election officials and developed action plans to update standards, work processes, and communications around the postmark process. This includes training field managers and creating new ballot monitor

positions whose sole focus is ensuring ballots are postmarked or cancelled correctly. Feedback from ballot monitors is used to help improve the postmark process and educate employees. Ballot monitors will be in place through Election Day.

- Starting October 1st USPS will make additional resources available for processing and delivery teams to expedite election mail. This includes expanded run time on processing machines; approval of additional overtime as necessary to cover the expanded delivery window; and if needed, extra trips to deliver election mail and additional collections.
- The expanded window is similar to peak holiday season processing. In comparing election mail to peak season processing in terms of capacity, if all of the approximately 160 million registered voters in the U.S. were to vote by mail, and each received and returned both an application and a ballot, that would be 4 mail pieces for each voter, totaling 640 million pieces for all voters combined, which would amount to around 25% of what is handled during peak week.
- USPS will continue to provide methods to expedite ballots close to Election Day, including priority mail express, delivery on Sunday, special delivery, and other means. However, USPS can't guarantee that all voters who receive a ballot late in the process will be able to have the ballot returned in time. It's important to help encourage people to request and return the ballot early.

Secretary Padilla asked if USPS would pledge to provide election officials with an advance copy of future communications to voters so they can review and provide input to help minimize any misinformation. Mr. Marshall indicated that USPS could commit to that.

Secretary Padilla noted that mail processing facilities are dealing with a high volume of parcels during the pandemic, and asked if those facilities will be prepared for the high volume of election mail in coming weeks, including ballots, voter information guides, political mail, etc. Mr. Williams noted that while the package volume has increased, USPS is very focused on processing letter and flat mail, including ensuring that staffing operations meet the requirements of mail in the system.

Secretary Griswold asked Postmaster DeJoy how he planned to address misinformation from the Administration about vote by mail, and increase confidence in USPS's ability to deliver mail ballots. Postmaster DeJoy noted that he has disagreed publicly with the President on those issues, and added that he supports the mail voting process.

Secretary Hobbs noted that Arizona does not have a postmark deadline since ballots are due on Election Day, and asked if USPS efforts to ensure ballots are postmarked will impact the processing of those that don't require it. Mr. Glass noted that postmarking of all ballots is a national policy but said those efforts won't have any impact the processing speed or delivery of ballots

Secretary Merrill (Alabama) thanked Postmaster DeJoy for USPS' efforts to educate the public about voting by mail through the recent postcard mailing.

Secretary Ardoin noted that a recent audit report found that some USPS policies on election mail were not being followed, and asked how that was being addressed. Mr. Glass indicated that the issues identified in the report involved employees not using the proper standardized tools. He noted that USPS reissued tools and instructions and provided training and other measures to address the issue and added that the OIG has since closed out those areas of the report based on the measures taken.

Secretary Ardoin noted that during Louisiana's primary election, there was a situation where numerous ballot requests were held by postal officials due to improper postage, and were released only a few days before the election. He asked if USPS will continue to hold mail in those situations. USPS responded that the policy has been and continues to be that election mail is delivered regardless of a lack of postage, and the USPS follows up with the appropriate election officials after the fact for the postage due. He added that if there appears to be a situation where election mail is being held, officials should notify USPS and it will be corrected immediately.

Secretary Hargett expressed concern about the timing and wording of the recent postcard mailing. He also commended the efforts of postal officials in Tennessee.

Secretary Wyman asked how political mail impacts the anticipated volume of election mail, and whether the fluorescent barcode on the bottom of return mail can be used similar to a postmark for jurisdictions that have the necessary reader. She also asked how USPS is working to deliver mail to people displaced by the recent fires and hurricanes.

Mr. Glass noted that even when factoring in political mail to the hypothetical scenario he provided earlier, the average processing window would still be much less than during peak. He noted that USPS is focused on getting mail through the initial cancellation process to maximize the number of pieces that get the fluorescent ID tag. He added that USPS provides updated information on its website for individuals impacted by the recent natural disaster.

Secretary Oliver asked if it was possible for USPS to provide members with copies of guidance or procedures pertaining to the topics discussed on the call. She added that this would help members better understand the process and follow up with any questions. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that they are currently working to finalize a document to distribute that includes that type of information, and should be able to do so in about a week.

Secretary Gorbea noted that her office has a good relationship with postal officials in Rhode Island, and asked if there was someone at USPS headquarters who state election offices could contact directly to discuss any relevant issues. Mr. Williams indicated that state election officials can reach out to their local election coordinators, and those coordinators will relay any issues or concerns to headquarters.

Secretary Griswold asked Postmaster DeJoy about recent comments by the Attorney General regarding the potential for postal workers to be bribed. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that he has full confidence that postal employees will fulfill their obligations during the elections process.

Secretary Way noted that during New Jersey's primary election there was a situation where numerous postmarked ballots arrived at county offices a day after the primary. She asked for clarification on the roles of election ambassadors and election monitors, and whether USPS could provide copies of any standards that they rely on in carrying out those roles. Mr. Glass noted that there is not a full standard to measure against, but there is a general standard that no ballot should get through the processing facility without a postmark, and the ballot monitors search for ballots to ensure they receive a postmark.

Secretary Ardoin asked for input on how to address concerns from citizens regarding the political leanings of postal union employees. Postmaster DeJoy indicated that he has full faith in postal workers, and is confident in the intentions of workers and management to make sure all ballots get processed.

Mr. Marshall noted that USPS' employees take pride in their role as part of the election process, and added that the USPS expanded its task force to include union leadership and management associations.

The call ended at 3:30 PM ET.