



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

Legislative Building
PO Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220
Tel 360.902.4151
Fax 360.586.5629
www.secstate.wa.gov

March 3, 2009

John E. Potter, Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC, 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Potter,

The State of Washington truly values our strong relationship with the United States Postal Service. Just last week my office sponsored a seminar, in which six members of your office attended, focused on strengthening the partnership between the elections community and the United States Postal Service.

As the chief election official of a state that votes more than 90 percent through the mail, I write out of concern about your request to Congress to eliminate the requirement that mail service is offered six days a week. Of the utmost concern for election officials throughout the country is the notion of eliminating postal service on Tuesdays.

The majority of states in our nation hold elections solely on Tuesdays. Throughout the country, but particularly here on the West Coast where vote by mail is so popular, ballots are required to either be postmarked or returned by Election Day.

In Washington, thousands of voters wait until right before Election Day to return their ballots. Eliminating mail service on Tuesdays would effectively place thousands of voters at risk of their ballots not being counted. Throughout the country many, if not all, states would run into the same problem, millions of citizens rely on the postal system to cast their ballot.

As a nation, we have seen unprecedented reforms to our elections processes following several history making close elections. As an elections community, we have worked long and hard to return trust and confidence to our nation's elections. Much of the trust we have managed to rebuild could be in jeopardy by purging mail delivery on Election Day. Just last November, Washington hit a new milestone with record breaking voter participation. Step by step we must continue to rebuild voters' faith in their elections.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Our democracy is founded on the active participation of its citizenry. The State of Washington depends strongly upon the postal service to connect its citizens to government. We sincerely value our relationship with your office and look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

SAM REED
Secretary of State

Cc: Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jay Inslee
Representative Rick Larsen
Representative Brian Baird
Representative Doc Hastings
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Representative Norm Dicks
Representative James McDermott
Representative Dave Reichert
Representative Adam Smith