

USPS POSTMARK RULE CHANGE

Effective December 24, 2025

Use this checklist for deadline-dependent mail:

Tax documents • Legal Notices • Ballots • Payments • Compliance Mail



Before You Mail

- ☐ Confirm the actual deadline (date and time, if applicable)
- ☐ Mail earlier than usual — don't rely on same-day postmarks
- ☐ Avoid last-minute drops in blue collection boxes, especially late in the day



At the Post Office

- ☐ Hand mail directly to a USPS clerk
- ☐ Request a manual postmark (applied at acceptance)
- ☐ If possible, purchase postage at the counter to receive a dated receipt or PVI (Postage Validation Imprint)



Choose the Right Mail Service

- ☐ Use **Certified Mail** for proof of mailing and delivery
- ☐ Consider **Registered Mail** for high-value or legal documents
- ☐ Keep receipts and tracking records with your files



What to Avoid

- ☐ Assuming the postmark date equals the drop-off date
- ☐ Mailing time-sensitive documents after the final daily pickup
- ☐ Relying on kiosk-printed or pre-printed postage for deadline proof

⚠️ KEY REMINDER

Under the new USPS rule, postmarks may reflect processing dates, **not** mailing dates.



PLAN AHEAD

Don't wait until the deadline!

Mail early and request manual postmarks
for critical documents.