

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.