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December 31, 2025

United States Senate

The Honorable Senator Chris Van Hollen

The Honorable Senator Angela Alsobrooks

U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Congressman Kweisi Mfume

The Honorable Congressman Johnny “Johnny O” Olszewski, Jr.

RE: Concerns Regarding United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmark Policy and Its Impact on Mail-In Voting

Dear Members of Congress:

The Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee (BCDSCC) is comprised of forty grassroots, elected volunteers of the Maryland Democratic Party representing five legislative districts in Baltimore City. Our primary mission is to strengthen the Democratic Party at the city level, get Democrats elected, and encourage voter turnout.

On behalf of the BCDSCC, I am writing to express serious concern about recent USPS policy changes regarding postmarked mail and the harmful impact it will have on voters in Baltimore City.

Altering how postmarked mail is accepted and processed creates unnecessary barriers to timely and effective participation in our democratic process. Throughout history, the right to vote in Maryland has been hard-won and fiercely protected so that every eligible voter—regardless of race, income, or zip code—has an equal voice. Policies that undermine the reliability of mail delivery or create confusion around ballot deadlines disproportionately harms voters who already face structural obstacles to participation.

Mail-in voting became a critical and widely used option during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains an essential voting method for many Baltimore City residents. In the 2024 Presidential General Election, Baltimore City voters submitted nearly 62,000 mail-in ballots¹.

¹ Official 2024 Presidential General Election Mail-in Voting

(<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:79804c4a-1168-4b3b-96bd-4ebaf124cb6a>)

The Honorable Members of Congress
December 31, 2025
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Many voters continue to rely on mail-in ballots for various reasons, such as:

- **Limited access to polling locations**, particularly in neighborhoods affected by polling place closures;
- **Work schedules and caregiving responsibilities** that make in-person voting difficult;
- **Health concerns** or vulnerabilities that make voting by mail the safest and easiest option.

When USPS policies change in ways that complicate postmark requirements or increase the likelihood that ballots will be rejected through no fault of the voter, the result is preventable disenfranchisement. These changes not only risk silencing individual voices but also deepen inequities in the electoral process.

Moreover, such policy shifts erode public trust in the electoral process. Voters deserve clear, consistent, and equitable rules—not uncertainty that may suppress turnout or invalidate legally cast ballots.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to:

1. Oppose policies or funding changes that weaken USPS's ability to provide reliable mail delivery and accurate postmark services;
2. Support legislation that protects and clarifies mail-in voting standards and ballot acceptance rules;
3. Ensure that all voters, especially those in historically marginalized communities, have equitable, barrier-free access to the ballot.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your continued service. We appreciate your continued efforts to protect fair, accessible, and inclusive voting for all constituents.

Sincerely,

Tammy Stinnett

Tammy Stinnett, Chair

Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Senate President Bill Ferguson
Speaker of the House Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chairwoman, Delegate Melissa Wells
Mayor Brandon Scott
Clifford Tatum, Baltimore City Board of Elections Director
Scherod Barnes, Baltimore City Board of Elections President
Steuart Pittman, Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party