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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:00 AM

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Cc: Kenney, Charlie M - Toledo, OH; Rauckhorst, Alicia - Cleveland, OH

Subject: Ohio Absentee Ballots

Good morning Everyone,

The Postal Service understands that Ohio legislation allows qualified voters to submit an application for an absentee ballot as late as noon on Saturday, April 25th, three days before the April 28th election. In most cases, the law requires that the board of elections send the requested ballots by mail. We appreciate that the state will provide the Postal Service with notice of the amount of mail to be sent on April 25th, and present the ballots for mailing by close of business on April 25th, as you noted. This will help the delivery process move along efficiently. It is our understanding that in order to be eligible to be counted a ballot must be received by 7:30 p.m. on April 28, 2020, or be postmarked by April 27th and received no later than May 8, 2020.

The state's deadline for mailing out and returning ballots largely falls outside of the Postal Service's delivery standards. The Postal Service recommends that election officials use First Class Mail service to send all Election Mail, including absentee ballots and absentee ballot applications. Most First Class Mail is delivered within 2 to 5 days. Requested delivery on Monday for items mailed on Saturday falls almost entirely outside our delivery standard. As a result, please be advised that while we will endeavor to deliver ballots as quickly as possible, there is a strong likelihood that the timing for mailing out ballots may not allow adequate time for voters to receive the ballot and return it by mail in time to meet the state's postmark deadline or in some instances, in time for voters to hand deliver their ballots ahead of polls closing on Tuesday.

The Postal Service is committed to delivering ballots in a timely manner, but our delivery standards reflect our operational capabilities and there is a high probability that some ballots sent on Saturday may not reach voters by Monday. The Postal Service is proud of our role as an important component of the nation's democratic process and I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a successful election season.

Thank you,

Sarita Montgomery

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