

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster Steiner:

I write with grave concern regarding recent reports that numerous collection boxes throughout Illinois have been closed or rendered unavailable for public use across multiple locations in Illinois in the lead-up to the upcoming primary elections on March 17th. Constituents and local election stakeholders have indicated that boxes in several communities are locked, removed, or otherwise inaccessible, raising concerns about whether voters who rely on timely mail service to return ballots will be able to do so without disruption.

For decades, the Postal Service has recognized the unique importance of Election Mail as a core public service. In previous election cycles, USPS has consistently affirmed that ballots should receive expedited handling and tracking to meet each state's deadlines. During the 2024 General Election, the Postal Service successfully delivered 99.9% of ballots within seven days — a record that has been vital to maintaining public confidence in the integrity and reliability of mail voting.¹

Reliable access to mail collection is especially critical during an election period. Many Illinois voters — including seniors, families of servicemembers, and individuals with limited transportation— depend on nearby collection boxes to ensure that mail-in ballots are transmitted quickly and securely. These voters are not always able to reach a post office during regular business hours, making after-hours access to collection boxes an essential alternative. When these boxes are unavailable, constituents may face unnecessary barriers to participating fully and confidently in the electoral process.

Any reduction in access points risks delaying the delivery of election mail and could undermine public confidence in the accessibility of the voting process. Ensuring that collection infrastructure is fully operational during this period is essential to supporting the opportunity to participate for every Illinois voter, regardless of circumstance. Accordingly, I respectfully request that you provide the following information by March 5th, 2026:

1. The number and locations of any boxes currently closed or removed
2. The reasons for these closures and steps being taken to restore access where needed;
3. Data from the most recent two federal election cycles showing on-time delivery rates for ballots in Illinois and nationwide.
4. Assurance that Election Mail — including ballots — will continue to receive expedited handling and delivery consistent with the standards applied during the 2022 and 2024 elections.
5. The measures in place to ensure timely processing of election-related mail.

¹ <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2024/1202-usps-releases-2024-post-election-analysis-report.htm>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and to continuing our shared commitment to protecting the right to vote.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress