

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9932

To prohibit the United States Postal Service from using funds to close small post offices or perform mail processing facility reviews in election years, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2024

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To prohibit the United States Postal Service from using funds to close small post offices or perform mail processing facility reviews in election years, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Upholding USPS De-
5 livery Standards and Election Integrity Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States Postal Service shall be
2 operated as a basic and fundamental service pro-
3 vided to the people by the Government of the United
4 States, authorized by the Constitution, created by
5 Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The
6 Postal Service shall have as its basic function the
7 obligation to provide postal services to bind the Na-
8 tion together through the personal, educational, lit-
9 erary, and business correspondence of the people. It
10 shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services
11 to patrons in all areas and shall render postal serv-
12 ices to all communities. The costs of establishing
13 and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be ap-
14 portioned to impair the overall value of such service
15 to the people (39 U.S.C. 101).

16 (2) On March 23, 2021, the Postal Service an-
17 nounced its ten-year Delivering for America plan “to
18 provide prompt, reliable, and efficient mail and
19 package shipping services to all Americans— regard-
20 less of where they live—and at affordable rates”.
21 One of the ways the Postal Service intends to
22 achieve this objective is through Mail Processing Fa-
23 cility Reviews. These reviews have the potential to
24 impact delivery standards and ballot collection proc-
25 esses across the Nation.

1 (3) Thousands of concerned American citizens
2 have voiced their opinions against these reviewal
3 processes, and numerous Members and Senators
4 have written letters to the Postmaster General de-
5 manding answers to these legitimate concerns.

6 (4) The Postal Regulatory Commission, in con-
7 sultation with the United States Postal Service Of-
8 fice of Inspector General, possesses the statutory au-
9 thority to evaluate and issue an advisory opinion on
10 the impact of the Postal Service's reforms including
11 but not limited to costs, revenue, volume, products,
12 and service standards (39 U.S.C. 501, 3622, 3652,
13 3662, and 3691).

14 (5) On March 28, 2024, the Office of Inspector
15 General released a comprehensive audit, Report
16 Number 23–161–R24, which outlined how the re-
17 forms led to worse service, an inadequately informed
18 public, decreased employee availability, and an in-
19 crease in late and canceled mail transportation trips.

20 (6) On April 26, 2024, the Postal Regulatory
21 Commission issued Order No. 7061 to the Postal
22 Service, which focuses on these reforms and requires
23 that the Postal Service either submit to an advisory
24 opinion of the Commission or justify why said opin-
25 ion is not warranted.

1 (7) On May 20, 2024, the Postmaster General
2 agreed to pause some of these reforms until January
3 1, 2025, and outlined which reforms remain ongoing
4 in 2024.

5 **SEC. 3. UPHOLDING DELIVERY STANDARDS AND ELECTION**
6 **INTEGRITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—No funds appropriated or other-
8 wise made available to the United States Postal Service
9 may be used to—

10 (1) consolidate or close small rural and other
11 small post offices; or

12 (2) perform a mail processing facility review or
13 implement changes pursuant to a mail processing fa-
14 cility review during any year in which a regularly
15 scheduled general election for Federal office is held
16 pursuant to section 25 of the Revised Statutes (2
17 U.S.C. 7).

18 (b) COLLECTION BOX AUDIT.—Not later than 90
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the In-
20 specter General of the United States Postal Service shall
21 conduct an audit of the processes of each geographic dis-
22 trict and Logistics and Processing Operations division of
23 the United States Postal Service for removing mail collec-
24 tion boxes and submit to the Committee on Oversight and
25 Accountability of the House of Representatives and the

- 1 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
- 2 fairs of the Senate a report on the findings of such audit.

