

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2026

David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Office
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Tammy Hull
Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Postmaster General Steiner and Inspector General Hull:

We write to express our serious concerns over reports indicating United States Postal Service (USPS) improperly marked mail ballots from Lyon County, Nevada and Douglas County, Nevada as undeliverable. We are aware USPS is looking into this matter; however, we strongly urge USPS to conduct a formal investigation into the unacceptable failures causing these incidents. To ensure these issues are corrected before the November midterm elections, we urge USPS to immediately initiate this investigation and share its results with Congress. We also urge USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to evaluate whether an independent OIG investigation is warranted.

On July 6, 2026, weeks after the conclusion of Nevada's June Primary election, the Nevada Secretary of State's Office received an envelope from USPS's Mail Recovery Center containing 32 completed individual ballots intended for the Lyon County Clerk/Treasurers' Office. Similarly, on July 15, 2026, our Secretary of State's Office received two mail ballots intended to be delivered to the Douglas County Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Each ballot was inexplicably marked by USPS as undeliverable and, therefore, unable to be counted—despite being correctly addressed to their respective county clerk's office and postmarked in a timely manner.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Nevada's universal mail ballots system makes voting more accessible and is popular across party lines in both rural and urban counties. Since 2022, over 80 percent of voters have used mail-in ballots in Nevada in a safe and secure way. Errors of this magnitude are incredibly rare, making USPS's failure to deliver lawful and correctly addressed ballots even more disturbing. USPS must clarify what caused these select ballots to be marked as undeliverable and why safeguards were not in place to prevent such significant mistakes. If not promptly addressed in a transparent manner, USPS's failure to deliver election mail threatens to erode public trust in our nation's democratic process.

To ensure mail ballots in the upcoming midterm elections and in all future elections reach their destination, as is required by federal law, USPS must expedite their review of these incidents and publicize the results of their investigation. Accordingly, we request USPS brief our offices by

August 17, 2026, about the investigation and the solutions the agency will implement to prevent future errors in Nevada and across the country. We also request USPS OIG to report to our offices as to whether an independent OIG investigation is appropriate no later than August 1, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

CC:

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