Postal Regulatory Commission
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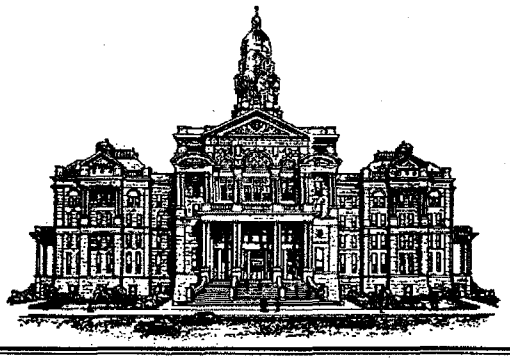

SUZANNE HENDERSON
County Clerk

TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Testimony to Postal Regulatory Commission
regarding the impact of changing mail delivery dates.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today regarding the U.S. Post Office five day delivery operation concept plan. It is our understanding that under this plan the mail will continue to be delivered to post office boxes Monday through Saturday, and that Post offices will remain open on Saturday's.

If this proposal remains, the County Clerks and Recorders can adjust workflow with no negative impact. However, Election Officials are most concerned with the following:

If the proposal is to cease all operations on Saturdays, including the processing of mail and ability to retrieve mail, then the impact on offices will be significant; ballot applications and ballots that previously would have been processed by the Post Office and received by offices on Saturdays will be delayed, possibly resulting in a backlog of applications and ballots to be processed during early voting in a heavy turnout election, particularly towards the end of the early voting period when volumes of applications and ballots increase significantly.

Whenever there is a Saturday election, ballots that are now available on Saturday would no longer be available, effectively denying those voters the opportunity to vote. And, conceivably, the cessation of Saturday processing of mail by the Post Office could impact ballots for elections held on Tuesdays: if processing of mail in the possession of the Post Office on the days immediately preceding a Tuesday election is delayed because of reduced hours of the post office staff, then conceivably mail that previously would have been processed and available for pickup by 7:00 P.M. on Election Day may not be processed and available by 7:00 P.M., thus effectively denying those voters the ability to vote.

In regard to voters expecting a mail carrier to pick up their mail-in ballots at their residence on Saturday, voters would not have a ballot picked up until Monday, therefore the ballot may not reach the Election Office timely if the election day is on a Tuesday, thus denying voters the ability to vote.

Voter education would be required to warn of the possibility of ballot not being received timely but potential remains of public cry when their ability to vote is denied.

Suzanne Henderson
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