

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

SIX-DAY TO FIVE-DAY STREET DELIVERY
AND RELATED SERVICE CHANGES

DOCKET NO. N2010-1

RESPONSES OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES' WITNESS BROWN
TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGATORIES
(USPS/PR-T1-11 THROUGH USPS/PR-T1-15)

The Public Representatives hereby provide the responses of witness Kate Brown to United States Postal Service interrogatories USPS/PR-T1-11 through USPS/PR-T1-15, submitted on August 11, 2010. The interrogatories are reproduced in their entirety and are followed by a response.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

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**RESPONSE OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITNESS BROWN TO
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGATORY USPS/PR-T1-11**

USPS/PR-T1-11

Please refer to your testimony at page 8, lines 17-19. Describe the circumstances, if any, under which county elections officials in Oregon are permitted to include in election results any mailed-in ballots delivered by the Postal Service up to three days after an election.

RESPONSE:

There are no circumstances under which county election officials in Oregon are permitted to include ballots received after the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline.

**RESPONSE OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITNESS BROWN TO
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGATORY USPS/PR-T1-12**

USPS/PR-T1-12

(a) Please confirm that your office asks local election officials to work with the Postal Service to:

(i) take into consideration the size (number of ballots) of the election, allowing for as much time as possible for processing mailed-in ballots; and

(ii) take into consideration holidays or three-day weekends so ballots do not sit in a mailbox over a long weekend.

If you do not confirm, please explain.

(b) If your response to subpart (a) is affirmative to any degree, please explain whether and how these practices would change if the Postal Service were to implement the service changes under review in this docket.

RESPONSE:

(a)

(i) Confirmed. My Elections division, as well as the clerks from Oregon's largest counties, meet with the main Postal Service Office in Portland before every election to discuss the upcoming election.

Furthermore, each county provides the Postal Service with a sample of the ballot for each upcoming election.

(ii) Confirmed.

(b) This practice would not change if the Postal Service were to implement the proposed service changes.

**RESPONSE OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITNESS BROWN TO
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGATORY USPS/PR-T1-13**

USPS/PR-T1-13

(a) Please confirm that your office asks local election officials to work with the postal processing and distribution center serving their locality to arrange for pre-8 pm Election Day pick-up of ballots. If you do not confirm, please explain.

(b) If your response to subpart (a) is affirmative to any degree, please explain whether and how your office might seek to change such arrangements.

RESPONSE:

(a) Confirmed. All counties work with their local Postal Service offices make arrangements for pre-8 p.m. Election Day pick-up of ballots.

(b) We do not believe that changes are needed, we are confident that local officials have a good working relationship with their local Postal Service offices.

**RESPONSE OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITNESS BROWN TO
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGAORY USPS/PR-T1-14**

USPS/PR-T1-14

Your testimony reflects some understanding of differences among state elections procedures. Please indicate the number of states that require mailed-in election ballots to be:

- (a) received by the close of business on election day;
- (b) postmarked by election day.

RESPONSE:

I do not have the requested information on hand, but have asked my staff to research this topic. I will file a supplemental response if responsive information can be obtained.

**RESPONSE OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITNESS BROWN TO
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTERROGATORY USPS/PR-T1-15**

USPS/PR-T1-15

Do you agree that Oregon county elections offices that use a Post Office Box address for the receipt of mailed-in ballots will not be affected by the proposed elimination of delivery to street addresses on Saturdays? If you do not agree, please explain why and how they would be affected by that change?

RESPONSE:

Under the Postal Service's proposal, Oregon county elections offices that use a Post Office Box address for the receipt of mailed-in ballots will still be able to retrieve ballots from the post office box on Saturdays; however, this does not necessarily mean that these counties will not be affected by the proposed elimination of delivery to street addresses on Saturdays. Voters will not have their completed ballots picked up from residential addresses on Saturdays, so county offices that use a Post Office box for mailed-in boxes are nevertheless affected by the proposal because ballots may not be returned as soon as they otherwise would have been returned.