

First Class Mail Change Statement

Now I am going to provide a description of a proposed change in First Class Mail service from the Postal Service.

Service for First-Class Mail reflects a specific standard for mail originating in one location and destinating in another location. In the continental U.S., the service standard for First-Class Mail delivery is 1 to 3 days. Currently,

- Delivery in the local area is next delivery day.
- Delivery to destinations outside the local area up to 1,000 miles is 2 days.
- Delivery to destinations over 1,000 miles within the continental U.S. is 3 days.

For those living in Alaska and Hawaii, delivery to anywhere in the continental U.S. is 4 days.

As a result of declining mail volume, the cost to continue providing this level of service is becoming unsustainable, contributing to major budget deficits for the Postal Service. In the past two years, the Postal Service has had budget deficits of over \$8 billion and expects to have a similar budget deficit this next year. To address the budget deficits, the Postal Service is exploring several changes, including

- Legislative reform to change government requirements to pre-pay health and pension benefits
- Eliminating Saturday mail delivery to homes and businesses
- Closing many small post offices while shifting retail access to alternative locations and channels

The Postal Service is also considering revising the service standards for First-Class Mail within the continental U.S.

- Delivery in your local area now delivered the next delivery day will be delivered on the second day
- Delivery outside the local area up to 200 miles which now takes 2 days will continue to be delivered on the second day.
- Delivery to destinations 200 to 1,000 miles which now takes 2 days will take 3 days
- Delivery to destinations over 1,000 miles which now takes 3 days will continue to take 3 days

For those living in Alaska and Hawaii, delivery to anywhere in the continental U.S. will continue to take 4 days.

In addition, local Periodical Mail, primarily newspapers, is currently transported along with First-Class Mail. The proposed change will mean that local delivery of this mail now delivered on the next day will be delivered on the second day. All other Periodical Mail delivery schedules will not be affected. **[READ IF Q2A-Q2J = FCM, SM, PE]** Businesses using bulk First Class, Standard, or Periodical Mail may have access to fewer locations accepting this mail and potentially result in a need to transport this mail to a location different from the one they are currently using.