



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda McKinney
District 1

Kyle Curtis
District 2

LaDon Linde
District 3

February 22, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. Room 4012
Washington, D.C. 20260

Jennifer Selde
Western States Government Relations Liaison Director
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy and Ms. Selde:

We write today with deep concerns regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS) proposed changes to the Yakima processing facility and the timeliness of processing and delivering of mail in Yakima County.

On March 23, 2021, USPS announced its ten-year Delivering for America plan “to provide prompt, reliable, and efficient mail and package shipping services to all Americans— regardless of where they live—and at affordable rates.” One of the ways USPS intends to achieve this objective is through the Mail Processing Facility Review (MPFR). The Yakima post office is currently under review in Washington State’s 4th Congressional District.

Yakima County depends on the USPS for timely delivery of mail. Below are recent accounts of issues the County has been facing regarding mail delivery:

- Yakima County mailed tax statements on February 5th from a vendor in Spokane, and they did not reach our taxpayers until February 9th and 10th.
- Kitsap County mailed their statements on February 6th from the same vendor in Spokane and their taxpayers received them on February 8th.
- Yakima County pays for a Post Office box caller service but on several occasions the Post Office was closed, making us unable to retrieve our mail and payments.
- The sorting of mail is constantly delayed, which requires us to go back to the Post Office at a later time/date to retrieve mail and payments.
- Yakima County has sent certified return receipt mail and when receive back, the Post Office did not get a signature as required or it is stamped COVID 19 with no signature.
- Yakima County received 2 payments last week that had October postmarks. This caused the customer to pay interest and penalties but once we received the October payment, we had to waive the charges and send the penalties back to the customer. This has happened on several occasions over the past few years.
- Continued delays on receiving payments which then impacts all taxing district and special purpose districts cash flow.



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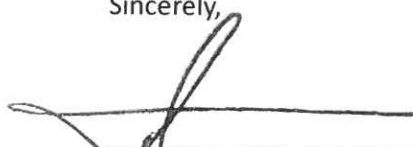
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- Taxpayers drop payments in the Post Office Blue boxes on tax day but they do not receive the postmark necessary for the County to deem it paid on time.
- Yakima County has been told by the Post Office that our mail goes to either Spokane or Seattle. Once it arrives there, they are putting the postmark on the envelope. If it is after midnight, the postmark will have the following date on it. This causes interest and penalties to be added to the parcel due to the State Law requiring the County Treasurer to use postmark (RCW 1.12.070).

Ensuring postal operations are properly conducted in a timely manner is an important issue that must be addressed by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to ensure exceptional delivery standards are upheld. **We believe any changes to the Yakima processing facility that requires mail to leave the County before being processed is a detriment to "providing prompt, reliable and efficient mail and package shipping services to all Americans, regardless of where they live."**

We appreciate your full attention to this matter and stand ready to meet with representatives at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,


Amanda McKinney
Chair of the Board
Commissioner, District 1
Kyle Curtis
Commissioner, District
LaDon Linde
Commissioner, District 3

CC U.S Representative Dan Newhouse, 4th District Washington