



NRLCA FACT SHEET

National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
1630 Duke Street, 2nd Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314-3467
Telephone: 703-684-5545
www.nrlca.org

Preserving 6-Day Mail Delivery

Delivering mail six days a week remains a critical competitive advantage for the USPS, especially in rural areas where small businesses and livelihoods depend on 6-day mail delivery. The Administration's FY2020 budget proposed allowing the Postal Service to reduce delivery frequency by eliminating Saturday mail delivery. Although the argument is that these cuts would save money, the detrimental effect it would have on USPS customers would be much worse. In our view, this service cut would reduce the value of the mail and further intensify the Postal Service's problems by pushing much-needed business mail out the door, leading to the demise of the USPS.

The NRLCA firmly believes any savings achieved by reducing delivery days will be offset by the lost revenue that will occur when consumers and businesses flock to USPS competitors. A confidential USPS-commissioned survey found that service cuts (i.e., elimination of Saturday mail delivery, service standard changes, and mail processing network changes combined) resulting in a 7.7% reduction in mail volume would cause a \$5.2 billion revenue loss in the first year alone.

Eliminating 6-day mail delivery would cut tens of thousands of rural letter carrier jobs, many of which are held by veterans. More than 100,000 veterans work for the Postal Service, making it one of the largest employers of veterans.

Saturday mail delivery is an important communication and marketing tool used by millions of citizens and mailers across the country, especially in rural areas where the Postal Service provides last-mile service. The elimination of Saturday mail delivery would place financial hardships on the tens of millions of rural Americans who own small businesses. In addition, many elderly and disadvantaged constituents live in rural America. If the USPS ends this vital service, customers will be left with either having to pay a higher price or pay a surcharge to have an alternative delivery service on Saturdays.

Cutting 6-day delivery is not a viable plan. Eliminating Saturday mail delivery will provide customers with fewer and lower quality services that will result in more customers seeking other options. Reducing the number of USPS delivery days ignores the needs of customers as well as a booming e-commerce market. This past fiscal year, the Postal Service earned 10.1% more in parcel revenue than the previous year. The shipping and package business represented 30.5% of the operating revenue for the Postal Service's over the same period. Rural Americans, businesses, senior citizens, and veterans will be hurt the most by ending Saturday mail delivery. Reducing delivery from six to five days goes against the principle of the very foundation of the Postal Service: "To give universal service to the American people."

NRLCA Position

The NRLCA believes it is essential for Congress to continue to support 6-day mail delivery to ensure universal service for American businesses and households. Please support H. Res. 54 to ensure 6-day mail delivery in America's communities.

Contact Paul Swartz at pswartz@nrlca.org if you have any questions or would like more information.