



To: **State and Local Election Officials**
From: **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**
Date: **November 2025**
RE: **United States Postal Service Price Updates**

MEMORANDUM

USPS has announced price updates for early 2026 that may affect election operations. First-Class Mail stamp prices will remain at 78 cents in January, but a mid-year increase is likely. Shipping services, such as Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, and USPS Ground Advantage, will see rate increases on January 18, 2026. This memo provides a summary of these changes and highlights how they may affect election-related mailing and shipping activities.

Key Updates for January 2026

No increase in stamp ("First-Class Mail") price in January 2026

- The cost of a 1-ounce, single-piece First-Class Mail stamp will [remain at 78 cents](#) in January 2026.
- According to the Postmaster General, prices for First-Class Mail stamps and other "market dominant" services will likely change in mid-2026, possibly in July. The amount of a mid-year increase is unknown.
- It may be helpful to review your mailing needs and adjust your budget as needed for possible mid-year price changes.

Shipping service price increases effective January 2026

- USPS filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) for competitive (i.e., shipping) [service rate increases](#).
- The January price increase will only impact election mail sent through Priority, Priority Express, or Ground Advantage.
- If your office uses USPS shipping services (e.g., Priority Mail) for ballots, materials, or election supplies, expect a cost increase starting January 18, 2026.



- Approximate increases by service:
 - Priority Mail: ~6.6%
 - Priority Mail Express: ~5.1%
 - USPS Ground Advantage: ~7.8%

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

United States Postal Service Resources

- U.S. Postal Service Announces No Stamp Price Changes for January 2026:
<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2025/0924-usps-announces-no-stamp-price-changes-for-january-2026.htm>
- U.S. Postal Service Recommends New Competitive Prices for 2026:
<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2025/1114-usps-recommends-new-competitive-prices-for-2026.htm>
- For Rate Tables and Detailed Product-by-Product Changes:
<https://pe.usps.com/pricechange/index>
- USPS Election Mail Resources: <https://about.usps.com/what/government-services/election-mail/>