



Cumberland County Commissioners Office

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 14, 2021

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Cumberland County Reminds Voters to Affix Postage on Mail-In & Absentee Ballots

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Bureau of Elections reminds residents who are voting by mail-in or absentee ballot for the Municipal Election on Tuesday, Nov. 2, to ensure the correct postage is affixed to their envelope when using the United States Postal Service for delivery.

“In 2020, the first year for mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania, the postage was pre-paid by the Pennsylvania Department of State,” said Bureau of Elections Director Bethany Salzarulo. “This year voters must affix proper postage when returning ballots by mail.”

For the municipal election, voters will cast their ballots for statewide judges, county government officials, magisterial district judges, municipal offices, and local school directors. Two separate ballots are included in each mail-in and absentee balloting envelope. One, for Municipal Offices, and the other, a Retention Ballot for Judges. The Retention Ballot for Judges is only included every two years. Given the weight of two voting ballots in one mail-in or absentee envelope, additional postage is recommended.

According to an article in the Thursday, Oct. 14 edition of [Pennlive](#), Paul Smith, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service said in part, “If a return ballot is nevertheless entered into the mail stream with insufficient or unpaid postage, it is the Postal Service’s policy **not to delay the delivery of completed absentee balloting materials, including mail-in ballots**,” Smith said. “In cases where a ballot enters the mail stream without the proper amount of postage, the Postal Service will deliver the ballot and thereafter attempt to collect postage from the appropriate board of elections.”

Voters can also hand deliver ballots to the Cumberland County Bureau of Elections and can review the status of their ballots through the [Pennsylvania Department of State’s Ballot Tracker](#).

Instructions for your Ballot to be counted:

1. **Mark your ballot:** Review your selections carefully
2. **Pack and seal it properly:** Put your ballot into the secrecy envelope that reads “Official Election Ballot”, and seal it. Do not place any mark, text, or symbol on this envelope. Put the secrecy envelope in the pre-addressed return envelope and seal it.
3. **Sign and Date the return envelope:** Sign and date in the Voter’s Declaration section.

4. **Return it:** If returning by mail remember to include the correct postage. In person, hand deliver your ballot at the County Board of Elections, 1601 Ritner Hwy, Suite 201, Carlisle PA, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Residents can utilize the following additional hours to hand deliver mail-in and absentee ballots:

- **Thursday, October 28** - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Saturday, October 30** - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information, residents can contact the Bureau of Elections at 717.240.6385 or 888.697.0371, ext. 6385, or at bureauofelections@ccpa.net.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing County in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 259,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.