

# Important Notice: USPS Postmark Policy Change

**Effective December 24, 2025**, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will change how postmark dates are applied to mailed items. This change may affect property tax payments, exemption applications, protest filings, and other time-sensitive documents mailed to Real Central Appraisal District or other government agencies.

## What Is Changing?

### Current Practice

Postmarks generally reflect the date an item is deposited in a USPS mailbox or accepted at the post office.

### New Practice

Postmarks will reflect the date the mail piece is first processed by an automated USPS sorting facility. This date may be later than the date the item was mailed.

## Why This Matters

Many government agencies rely on the USPS postmark date to determine whether a document or payment was submitted on time. Under the new policy, mail deposited by a deadline could receive a postmark dated after that deadline, potentially resulting in late penalties, interest, or rejected filings.

## How to Avoid Late Postmarks

To protect yourself when mailing deadline-sensitive documents or payments, USPS recommends the following:

- Take your mail to the post office counter and request a **hand-stamped postmark**
- Purchase postage at the counter so the label reflects the **date of acceptance**
- Use **Certified Mail or Registered Mail** and retain your receipt as proof of timely mailing

## Important Reminder

Do not rely on USPS collection boxes for documents or payments with filing deadlines. Taking a few additional steps can help ensure your mail is accepted on time.

For questions regarding appraisal district deadlines or filings, please contact **Real Central Appraisal District** or visit [www.realcad.org](http://www.realcad.org).