

# Political Mail & Official Ballot Mail STIDs

Service Type Identifiers (STIDs) for Barcoded Political & Official Ballot Mail



The attributes that determine which STID should appear in an IMb tracking code are the class of mail, the address correction option, and whether Basic or Nonautomation, or Full-Service

For more information regarding STIDs, visit: <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailling/service-type-identifiers>

## HOW DOES IV-MTR HELP POLITICAL MAILERS?

For outgoing mail, IV-MTR helps:

- Obtain near real-time notification when your mail receives its last processing scan.
- Identify mail delivery trends and predicted delivery dates.
- Know when mailpieces reach their destination to better manage election activities.

For incoming reply mail, IV-MTR helps:

- Obtain near real-time notification when return mail enters the mailstream.
- Identify when voters' return items are in the Postal Service™ supply chain.

## HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH IV-MTR?

To get started with IV-MTR, register for a Business Customer Gateway (BCG) account, enable the IV-MTR service, and set up data feeds. Step-by-step instructions are available in the *Applying for Access* presentation on the IV-MTR PostalPro™ page, <https://postalpro.usps.com/InformedVisibility>, under IV-MTR User Guides and Training.

### Important Links:

- [Election Mail](#)
- [Political Mail](#)

## Political Mail STIDs

Political Mail continues to be a top priority within the United States Postal Service, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to the democratic process and the election community. The Postal Service has made improvements to ensure the accurate and timely processing of Political Mail by activating new Service Type IDs (STIDs) for use in preparing Political Mail on July 27, 2020. A Service Type Identifier (STID) is a unique three-digit code that indicates the service type for an individual mailpiece. The use of these STIDs allows for Informed Visibility Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR) that uniquely identifies Political Mail during mail processing. **These STIDs are for Political Mail only.** (Please note the definition of Political and Election/Ballot mail below.)<sup>1</sup>

Political Mail STIDs (Effective July 27, 2020)			
Class of Mail	Address Correction Option	Basic or Nonautomation with IV® MTR*	Full-Service with IV® MTR*
First-Class Mail® Political Mail	No Address Corrections	727	747
USPS Marketing Mail® Political Mail	No Address Corrections	728	748

\* Informed Visibility® Mail Tracking & Reporting <https://postalpro.usps.com/InformedVisibility>

<sup>1</sup> **Political Mail** is any material mailed for campaign purposes by a registered political candidate, campaign committee, or committee of a political party, or political message mailing by a political action committee (PAC), super PAC, or other organization engaging in an effort to influence or drive voter mobilization.

**Election Mail** is any item mailed to or from authorized election officials or Local Election Offices (LEO) that enables citizens to vote, such as:

- Official Ballot materials
- Voter registration cards
- Absentee applications
- Polling place notifications

## Intelligent Mail Barcode

The Routing Code can contain a 5-digit ZIP Code™, 9-digit ZIP+4® code, or 11-digit delivery-point code. To obtain automation discounts, a Delivery-Point ZIP Code from CASS™-certified (Coding Accuracy Support System) software is required. Mailers may opt not to populate the ZIP Code and use the IMb tracking code only for tracking the mailpiece. If populated, it must never be padded with leading or trailing zeros that are not part of a valid 5-, 9-, or 11-digit ZIP Code. The IMb concatenates the five fields in this way:

Six-Digit Mailer ID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Barcode ID [2N]		Service Type ID [3N]			Mailer ID [6N]			Serial Number [9N]						Routing Code (ZIP Code) [none, 5, 9, or 11N]																

Nine-Digit Mailer ID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Barcode ID [2N]		Service Type ID [3N]			Mailer ID [9N]			Serial Number [9N]						Routing Code (ZIP Code) [none, 5, 9, or 11N]																

# Political Mail & Official Ballot Mail STIDs

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## How To Determine The Correct Official Ballot Mail STID

There are four identifying characteristics:

### 1. Class of Mail

First-Class Mail® or USPS Marketing Mail®.

### 2. Direction of Mail

There are two directions the ballot may be mailed:

- From the Board of Elections office to the voter.
- From the voter to the Board of Elections office.

### 3. Address Correction Options

ACS™ (Address Change Service) is a post-mailing service that provides the Postal Service with instructions on how to handle UAA mail and provides the mailer with electronic Change of Address (COA) information or the reason for nondelivery. In certain instances, First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail are eligible for Full-Service ACS, OneCode ACS®, Traditional ACS, Manual Notices, or mailers can choose to not use ACS at all.

### 4. Service Level

- Basic or Nonautomation
- Full-Service

IV-MTR can provide mailers with greater insight into when voters have received Election Mail, and in some cases, mailed back their ballots.

Consult the Service Type Identifier Reference Table for Election Mail on this sheet to determine the correct STID or visit:

<https://postalpro.usps.com/service-type-identifiers/stidtable>

## Official Ballot Mail STIDs

A Service Type Identifier (STID) denotes the mail class, address correction option, and whether Informed Visibility® Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV®-MTR) is being utilized.

The Official Ballot Mail STIDs listed below provide the ability to identify and track ballots throughout the mail network. **Ballot Mail STIDs are for use with Official Ballot Mail only. Other items considered as Election Mail (ex. Voter Registration Cards; Polling Place Notifications) should NOT use these Ballot Mail STIDs in the IMb.** Refer to the regular STID Table (<https://postalpro.usps.com/node/6411>) for STIDs available to use with other types of Election Mail.

Official Ballot Mail					
Class of Mail & Direction	Address Correction Option	Basic or Nonautomation with IV® MTR*	Full-Service with IV® MTR*		
First-Class Mail®	No Address Corrections		715	720	
	Manual Address Corrections **		716	721	
	OneCode ACS®	Address Service Requested Opt 1	717		
		Address Service Requested Opt 2	718		
		Change Service Requested Opt 1	719		
	Board of Elections to Voter	Full Service ACS™			
		Address Service Requested Opt 1		722	
		Address Service Requested Opt 2		723	
		Change Service Requested Opt 1		724	
		Return Service Requested Opt 2		725	
USPS Marketing Mail®	No Address Corrections		735	741	
	Manual Address Corrections **		736	742	
	OneCode ACS®	Address Service Requested Opt 1**	737		
		Address Service Requested Opt 2**	738		
		Change Service Requested Opt 1**	739		
	Board of Elections to Voter	Full Service ACS™			
		Address Service Requested Opt 1**		743	
		Address Service Requested Opt 2**		744	
		Change Service Requested Opt 1**		745	
		Return Service Requested Opt 2**		746	
	Traditional ACS™	Change Service Requested Opt 1**	740		
Ballot Returns	Return Ballot First-Class Mail Reply Envelopes		777		
	Return Ballot Business Reply Mail by ZIP Envelopes		778		
Voter to Board of Elections	Return Ballot Permit Reply Mail by ZIP Envelopes		779		
	Return Ballot UOCAVA		780		

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act voters use only.

ACS Green & Secure Option. Additional First-Class Mail Green & Secure STIDs are available when you sign up for Secure Destruction. For more information go to: <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailling/secure-destruction>

\* Informed Visibility® Mail Tracking & Reporting <https://postalpro.usps.com/InformedVisibility>

\*\* Requires the printed text ancillary service endorsement. The option selected must not be printed with the endorsement.