

# Important update for your end-of-year gift and tax implications.

Due to a recent change at the United States Postal Service, the postmark on your check may be delayed—even if you put it in the mailbox early.

## What changed?

As of December 24, 2025, the USPS now applies the official postmark at a regional processing center, not your local mailbox or post office. That means if you drop a donation envelope in a blue collection box, or even inside your neighborhood post office, it could be days before the envelope is officially postmarked.

## How to Make Sure Your Mailed Donation Counts for 2025

The best way to make sure your donation counts for 2025 is to avoid the mail altogether. Send your cash donation via ACH, wire transfer, hand deliver your check, or even donate via credit card at your favorite charity's website ([here](#) for Cobb Community Foundation)

However, if you plan to mail your donation, to protect your tax deduction and ensure your donation is counted for this year, follow these simple steps:

1. Visit your local post office in person. Don't drop your envelope in a mailbox or use a self-service kiosk.
2. Request one of the following to document the date you mailed your gift:
  1. A Postage Validation Imprint (PVI) from the USPS counter
  2. A manual postmark (hand-stamped by a USPS employee)
  3. Certified Mail or Registered Mail options that include a dated receipt

*These are all considered valid ways to document the date you mailed your gift.*

3. Avoid these methods:

Mailing from a blue collection box

Using a self-service kiosk

Sending via UPS or FedEx (which do not qualify under IRS guidance for charitable mailing dates)

We recommend visiting your post office by December 30 to be safe and avoid long lines.

The easiest way to ensure your gift is received and counted for 2025 is to donate securely [online](#). All online gifts completed by 11:59 p.m. on December 31 will count toward your 2025 taxes.