
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Senator María Elena Durazo, Chair

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THE CITY OF EASTVALE: ZIP CODE

Urges Congress and the President to authorize the granting of a new and independent ZIP Code to the City of Eastvale in Riverside County.

Background

Postal ZIP codes. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) began dividing large cities into delivery zones in 1943. 20 years later, in response to increased mail volume, USPS introduced nationwide five-digit Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) codes to improve the efficiency of mail sorting and delivery. These codes corresponded to the post offices where final sorting of mail was done and from which letter carriers were dispatched to make deliveries. Mass mailings were first required to use ZIP codes in 1967 and today their use is ubiquitous. There are currently 41,552 ZIP codes in the U.S. This number fluctuates.

The ZIP code provides the basis for the automated sorting of nearly all mail. The first number of a ZIP code represents a broad geographic area, moving from “0” for places in the East to “9” for locations in the West. The next two numbers represent regional areas, while the fourth and fifth digits route the mail to specific post offices. The USPS added the four final ZIP code numbers (ZIP+4) in 1983 to allow mail to be further sorted by block, street, or building.

ZIP codes are easily accessible public information and, as such, various entities use them for purposes unrelated to mail delivery. For instance, researchers turn to ZIP codes to collect demographic data and auto insurance companies determine premiums based, in part, on traffic statistics within a customer’s ZIP code.

Postal vs. municipal boundaries. A 2006 Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report, “Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries,” states that, because ZIP codes are based on mail routes and delivery points, they often do not correspond to political or municipal jurisdiction boundaries. This means millions of households, particularly those in rapidly growing suburban areas, receive their mail from a post office in an adjacent town or neighborhood and their mailing address reflects the name and ZIP code of that post office rather than the jurisdiction where they actually live. The CRS states that problems can arise when mailing addresses do not align with the actual towns or cities of residence, including higher automobile insurance rates for drivers who live in suburban areas but are charged city rates based on their ZIP codes; confusion about where residents should vote in municipal elections because they do not distinguish between voting and mailing addresses; misdirecting of sales tax revenue collected by businesses with ZIP codes in overlapping jurisdictions; the mailing of jury duty notices to persons who are ultimately not eligible to serve based on their actual residence; potential delays in emergency service response times because of confusion over what city a call comes from if it has shared ZIP codes;

and a lack of community identity associated with the required use of mailing addresses in neighboring jurisdictions.

USPS boundary review process. USPS's policies to consider and, if possible, accommodate requests to modify ZIP code boundaries or change the last lines of an address, such as the city or town name, are outlined in its "Management Instruction: ZIP Code Boundary Review Process" document that it published in 2016. Any municipality or community group seeking a ZIP code change must submit the request in writing to the USPS district manager who is responsible for the area, along with any rationale and justification. According to USPS, the requested boundary should be consistent with the actual municipal boundary and identity of the affected area. The documented endorsement of the request by local government officials is strongly recommended to help ensure that the interests of the affected communities are represented fairly and are reflective of long-term municipal planning.

USPS generally limits its consideration of these requests to factors that involve mail delivery, but will reasonably consider factors related to community identity, particularly if the request is from an undeveloped or newly developed area. However, USPS policy states that it will not review boundary review requests more frequently than once every ten years.

When a request is received, the district manager must identify its feasibility based on internal and external factors, including:

- Whether the requested boundary is cohesive and manageable for mail delivery;
- If the revised or new boundary would create duplicate street addresses within a single ZIP code;
- If existing facilities can accommodate the change; and
- How the change might impact timeliness of mail delivery and customer satisfaction.

If the request is deemed to be feasible, USPS then conducts a survey of the customers who would be affected by the proposed ZIP code boundary change. A simple majority of survey respondents must indicate their support in order for USPS to proceed with implementing the change.

The boundary review process also includes procedures that are in place for customers to appeal to USPS headquarters if the request is denied. Adverse decisions may be appealed except in cases where a potential ZIP code change was not implemented because a majority of affected customers did not support it in the survey.

According to USPS, alternative administrative solutions that do not involve changing its existing delivery structure, such as allowing customers in multiple communities that fall within a single ZIP code to use an alternative city name while keeping the same ZIP code, should be pursued to the extent reasonably practicable. USPS further states that a ZIP code boundary change should be considered only in cases where there is no reasonable administrative option.

City of Eastvale. Eastvale was formally incorporated in 2010 and is located in Riverside County's Inland Empire region of Southern California. Once a rural area primarily comprised of dairy farms and agricultural land, Eastvale began to suburbanize in the 1990s as more families from Los Angeles and Orange counties moved there seeking affordability. Today it has a population of approximately 71,000 residents and covers about 13 square miles. Eastvale is

surrounded by the cities of Jurupa Valley, Corona, Chino, Ontario, and Norco. Currently, Eastvale shares two ZIP codes: 91752 with the City of Jurupa Valley and 92880 with the City of Corona.

The City is concerned that the sharing of ZIP codes with neighboring cities has caused frustrating challenges for the community, including mail delivery disruptions, difficulty attracting and retaining business development, confusion with voter registration and elections, miscalculated or restricted insurance rates, particularly for residents living in fire-prone areas, and interference with emergency response activities. The City wants the Legislature to urge the federal government to authorize a new ZIP Code to be assigned specifically to the City.

Proposed Law

Senate Joint Resolution 11 urges the U.S. Congress to work with the President to authorize assigning the City of Eastvale an independent ZIP Code. The resolution makes several findings and declarations stating the consequences of sharing ZIP codes with other cities, including that demographics and economic data are inaccurately represented across various systems that rely on ZIP codes, which can negatively affect commercial attractiveness, insurance rates, mail delivery, and emergency response efforts.

SJR 11 directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit copies of the resolution, for appropriate distribution, to:

- The President and the Vice President of the United States;
- The Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate;
- Each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States;
- and
- The author of SJR 11.

Comments

1. Purpose of the bill. According to the author, “With nearly 70,000 residents as of the 2020 Census, Eastvale has become one of the fastest-growing cities in California. The lack of an independent ZIP code for the City of Eastvale has led not only to chronic mail delivery issues—affecting timely legal notices, code enforcement activities, and important public outreach efforts—but has also caused challenges in emergency management, business attraction and retention, and insurance coverage. In many instances in which an Eastvale resident’s or small business’s address is improperly associated with another jurisdiction, the lack of an independent ZIP code has led to higher auto insurance rates or the loss of home insurance coverage due to wildfires in neighboring cities. Without having an independent ZIP code of their own, the City of Eastvale has seen their community identity, economic culture, and quality of life all negatively affected. Senate Joint Resolution 11 calls upon the President of the United States and Congress to enact legislation that would provide the City of Eastvale with its own, independent ZIP code.”

2. Try, try again? Various local, state, and federal efforts to designate a unique ZIP code for Eastvale have occurred since Eastvale was incorporated in 2010. USPS first conducted a boundary review of Eastvale’s request in 2011 but denied the request, citing costs associated with additional daily mileage for mail carriers and adjusted delivery routes. In 2022, the City

requested that USPS review the boundary again. USPS denied that request in December 2022, and Eastvale's appeal of that decision was denied in June 2023. Two federal bills in 2023, H.R. 696 and H.R. 860, that would have required USPS to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for the City of Eastvale failed to advance through the U.S. Senate. However, effective January 1, 2024, USPS changed the official municipality designation for 92880 from "Corona" to "Eastvale." As a result, Eastvale is now the recommended city designated for the 92880 ZIP code. Eastvale is also a recognized city name for addresses in the 91752 ZIP code. Legislative efforts continue: most recently, in July 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a similar measure, H.R. 672. That measure is currently pending in the U.S. Senate. SJR 11 continues these efforts at the state level.

3. Prior legislation. SJR 11 is nearly identical to SJR 3 (Roth, 2023).

Support and Opposition (3/13/2026)

Support: City of Eastvale

Opposition: None Submitted

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