

## Georgia Town Administrator

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**From:** William Lahaie <wlaiaie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:34 PM  
**To:** Georgia Town Administrator  
**Subject:** USPS service to Georgia

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Dear town administrator and members of the selectboard,

I am a Georgia resident who has experienced some problems due to the fact that the town does not have its own ZIP code. One simple example is that Georgia residents with a Milton ZIP code get higher insurance rates, because of a higher number of claims in Chittenden County. Another is that many companies that rely on address verification software lack flexibility in their systems and simply do not understand why the physical address is different from the mailing address, causing confusion. When I had an 05478 ZIP code, a company I dealt with tried to apply for a construction permit with the wrong town. There are many more examples of related problems, but in the spirit of brevity I will refrain from listing them all here.

I recently sent separate emails to state representatives Branagan and Bartley in hopes of getting assistance in petitioning USPS for a new ZIP code for Georgia, but after speaking with a regional manager at USPS, it would have to be a request made by the town and not the legislature, hence my message to you today.

I spoke this morning with Debra Wisor at the USPS Office of Address Management for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. She explained that there are two options available to the town. One would be to get Georgia its very own ZIP code, but this is a more complicated option as far as USPS is concerned. The simpler option is to have USPS add to their databases what is called a "preferred last line" that would read as "Georgia, VT". This means that USPS would be able to more efficiently deliver mail addressed to "Georgia" without the need for a new Post Office or a new ZIP code. Residents would keep their ZIP codes, and mail would keep coming from the Saint Albans, Milton and Fairfax Post Offices as it does today, but address verifications systems that operate based on USPS data would now recognize Georgia addresses as being in the Town of Georgia. This would also indicate "Georgia" as the town name in software-based address verification systems that many businesses and organizations rely on. This would solve many, if not all of the problems I am referring to.

The only thing needed to get this process started is for the town to send a formal request for a "preferred last line" of "Georgia VT" to USPS via a letter (with the town's letter head) or even an email. The person I spoke with at USPS is Debra Wisor ([debra.wisor@usps.gov](mailto:debra.wisor@usps.gov)) and her phone number is 717-257-5528, and she would be happy to discuss this option with a town administrator or with members of the selectboard.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

William Lahaie  
Georgia, Vermont