

Regulations on the Use of the  
**CONGRESSIONAL FRANK**  
By Members of the House of Representatives  
And  
**RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS**  
Before the House Commission on  
Congressional Mailing Standards

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PREPARED BY

**THE COMMISSION ON  
CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS  
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### 13. Voting Information

Section 3210(a)(3)(H) authorizes the franking of “mail matter which consists of voter registration or election information or assistance prepared and mailed in a nonpartisan manner.”

A Representative may send under his frank material encouraging citizens to register and to vote or other material which provides information on voting. Care should be taken that such information is prepared in a nonpartisan manner and that it does not contain any political material which would cause it to be nonfrankable.<sup>13</sup>

If the matter mailed consists solely of voter information, it should not contain a picture of the Member (See paragraph 4(c) of this chapter, “Pictures in Newsletters, News Releases, or Other Mass Mailings”).

### 14. Biographical Matter

Section 3210(a)(3)(I) authorizes franking of “mail matter which constitutes or includes a biography or autobiography of any Member of, or Member-elect to, Congress or any biographical or autobiographical material concerning such Member or Member-elect or the spouse or other members of the family of such Member or Member-elect, and which is so mailed as a part of a Federal publication or in response to a specific request therefor and is not included for publicity purposes in a newsletter or other general mass mailing of the Member or Member-elect under the franking privilege.”

Biographical matter not in a Federal publication and sent in response to a request may be in the form of a book, or part of a book, a specially printed brochure, a newspaper or a magazine article, or any other available form.

The frankability of biographical matter would be impaired by the inclusion of personal matter for publicity, advertising, or political purposes.

The incidental inclusion of biographical material or the incidental reference to personal history in a newsletter article would not cause the entire newsletter to be nonfrankable. However, if a substantial part of the article was a recitation of the personal history of a Member, such material would come under the prohibition.

A Representative may mail biographical material under the frank to the news media, in the absence of a specific request, for the purpose of updating news media files.

<sup>13</sup>Advisory opinion dated July 17, 1974, held as frankable a mass mailing to constituents urging voter registration.

Advisory opinion dated July 26, 1974, held a Member may not use his franking privilege as honorary chairman of a group of state administrators of elections to mail organizational information to such administrators.