

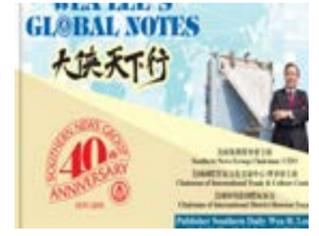


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## UPS, FedEx warn they cannot carry ballots like U.S. Postal Service



FILE PHOTO: A FedEx truck is parked next to a UPS truck as both drivers make deliveries in downtown San Diego, California March 5, 2013. REUTERS/Mike Blake

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - United Parcel Service and FedEx on Friday shot down social media calls that they step in to deliver mail-in ballots from the U.S. Postal Service, which is warning states of potentially "significant" delays.

"State ballots must be postmarked to be considered valid and only the USPS has lawful postmarking status. Therefore UPS, FedEx and other private parties cannot technically be involved in shipping ballots," UPS told Reuters in a statement.

"FedEx does accept individual ballots, and we advise that customers planning to return their ballots via FedEx should closely review their state's guidelines on absentee voting and deadlines for ballots or related election documents," FedEx said.

Republican President Donald Trump on Thursday said he opposed providing funds for the struggling Postal Service for mail voting, which is expected to surge to 50% as the coronavirus pandemic rages ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

The Postal Service said on Friday it has written to 46 states and the District of Columbia warning there is a significant risk voters will not have enough time to complete and

return their ballots.

In a viral Twitter post here on Thursday, author and radio host David Rothkopf said there was a "big opportunity" for UPS and FedEx to deliver ballots for free. "You'll overnight become the most beloved and respected organization in America," he wrote.

Various laws and regulations for the most part prohibit private delivery companies from handling mail-in and absentee ballots, the companies and experts told Reuters. Exceptions include deliveries deemed "extremely urgent" by statute and deliveries on the day of and afternoon prior to election day.

In some states, collection would be prohibited because it would be considered "ballot harvesting," said Tammy Patrick, a former Arizona election official and senior advisor to the Democracy Fund foundation.

There are other hurdles that those companies, already coping with a pandemic-related surge in e-commerce shipments, would have to overcome.

For example, the Postal Service touches every U.S. mailbox six days a week. Private companies visit only when they have a delivery or an pre-arranged pickup - and they do not have blanket coverage in rural areas.

Amazon.com's upstart delivery service has also been floated as an alternative. That service does not do residential pickups.

Representatives from Amazon and the Postal Service did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"Establishing a protocol of how they would collect the ballots would be a challenge," Patrick said.

Domestic costs would skyrocket since delivery firms charge significantly more for deliveries than the price of a 55-cent stamp, which is the cost to return many ballots.

And, international costs would be "astronomical," Patrick said.



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Stay Home!

# BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

## Trump Cutting Off WeChat Would Be A Devastating Blow To Many Chinese Families In The U.S.



A smart phone with the icons for the social networking apps WeChat, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger FaceTime, and others are seen on a smartphone screen. (Photo/S3studio/Getty Images News)

### KEY POINTS

President Donald Trump issued an executive order last Thursday night that would place a ban on business transactions with WeChat.

WeChat is the primary service people in the U.S. use to talk with friends and family in China, since U.S.-based apps are already banned there.

If Trump's executive order goes through, people in the U.S. would have effectively no free way to talk to friends and loved ones in China.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

When President Donald Trump late Thursday issued an executive order to effectively ban WeChat in 45 days, it was a devastating blow to the U.S. users who rely on the app to communicate with family and friends in China. WeChat operates a slew of services, such as ride hailing and making payments, within the app in China, but its flagship service is its messaging platform. It's picked up little traction in the United States compared with China, but the Chinese-owned messaging service is key for people who need to communicate between the two. Banning the app would give those who use it no other free option to quickly

communicate with friends and family in China. It's impossible for users to switch over to U.S.-based messaging platforms, since China has already blocked the apps that Americans rely on, such as Facebook's Messenger and Instagram, Google and Snapchat. WhatsApp, another popular global messaging service owned by Facebook, is also blocked in the country. Users can access the apps by going through a virtual private network, or VPN, but that's often inconsistent and not an easy fix. The bans of U.S.-based apps in China have allowed WeChat to swoop in and become a key service for funneling communication between the two countries.



### WeChat soon to be banned in the U.S.?

The prevalence of WeChat is pervasive. Instead of relying on Apple iMessage or Facebook Messenger to chat, many Chinese have moved to WeChat. Chinese say that it's the only way for them to send family members daily updates or have regular calls with them. A ban would effectively cut off easy communication between millions of families.

The executive order has already scared investors. WeChat is owned by the tech giant Tencent, which saw shares fall 5.04% on Friday. Tencent is also a titan in the video gaming space, with stakes in companies such as Activision Blizzard and Riot Games, so the repercussions could extend beyond WeChat.

"We are reviewing the executive order to get a full understanding," a Tencent spokesperson told CNBC in an email. The United States has recently ramped up its rhetoric against Chinese tech companies, with most of the attention going to TikTok, a social media platform operated by ByteDance. But Microsoft has already emerged as a strong contender to acquire TikTok's U.S. business. There are no apparent leaders looking to save WeChat's business in the U.S., meaning it could get left behind. (Courtesy www.cnn.com/)

### Related

Sets A 'Dangerous Precedent'

### TikTok Threatens Legal Action Against Trump's Executive Order



### KEY POINTS

President Trump's executive

order would ban the Chinese social media app from doing business with U.S. firms in 45 days.

TikTok said it was "shocked" by the order, claiming there has been "no due process or adherence to the law."

The Trump administration has also targeted WeChat, the popular Chinese messaging app, with a similar ban.

TikTok threatened legal action against an executive order issued by President Donald Trump that would ban the Chinese social media app from doing business with U.S. firms.

The app has been at the center of an escalating technology war between the U.S. and China. Washington had already threatened to ban TikTok in the U.S. due to national security concerns.

It said the app could allow Beijing to spy on U.S. government employees and contractors, collect personal data for blackmail, conduct corporate espionage and be used for "disinformation campaigns" that benefit the Chinese government.

TikTok has denied the allegations, and Beijing has opposed the executive orders, saying it will defend the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese businesses.

### 'No due process'

TikTok said it was "shocked" by the order, claiming there has been "no due process or adherence to the law" from the Trump administration.

"This Executive Order risks undermining global businesses' trust in the United States' commitment to the rule of law, which has served as a magnet for investment and spurred decades of American economic growth," TikTok said in a blog post.

"And it sets a dangerous precedent for the concept of free expression and open markets. We will pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded and that our company and our users are treated fairly — if not by the Administration, then by

the US courts."



### Will TikTok be banned in the U.S.?

TikTok, which is owned by Beijing-based internet giant ByteDance, wasn't the only Chinese company targeted by the Trump administration Thursday. Another executive order was directed at WeChat, the popular messaging app owned by Tencent, claiming its data collection could give Beijing access to Americans' personal information. Tencent's share price was down 4.5% in Friday's premarket. The bans on TikTok and WeChat are set to take effect in 45 days.

Tencent is arguably a more significant target than ByteDance as its WeChat app is used by millions internationally and the company owns or invests in several major U.S. gaming companies including Riot Games, Epic Games and Activision Blizzard, whose share price was down 1.5% in Friday's premarket.

It's still not clear whether the order could affect Tencent's other business dealings. "We are reviewing the executive order to get a full understanding," the company told CNBC's Eunice Yoon in a statement. TikTok has become a global cultural phenomenon and is especially popular with teens and young adults, who use it to share short-form videos including everything from lip-syncing to comedy. Despite being Chinese-owned, TikTok has a U.S. CEO and its largest office is based in Los Angeles. ByteDance operates a separate version of the app for China called Douyin. (Courtesy www.cnn.com)

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/15/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

## Harris Helps Massive Surge In Fundraising

Right after Kamala Harris became Joe Biden's running mate, the Democratic presidential ticket hauled in \$48 million dollars in just 48 hours. This is a new chapter for the Democratic Party to nominate an African Asian woman on the ticket.

to-door. All these activities need funds to achieve their goals. Like congressmen, their terms are two years right after they take over the office and they need to move right away on the next campaign.

In any political election, money and votes are the most important elements. The candidates need money to advertise on TV and all media. They need to hire more people off the street to go door-

Most politicians can't just depend on their salaries to survive. They need to have campaign funds to promote all their activities and they depend



on people to donate the money.

or other politicians will have influence on them. This is the way our system works.

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**Editor's Choice**



Locals harvest their potatoes as Mount Sinabung spews volcanic ash, after more than a year of inactivity, in Karo, North Sumatra province, Indonesia, August 10, 2020. Antara Foto/Sastrawan Ginting/via REUTERS



A man stands next to graffiti that reads "My government did this" at the damaged port area in Beirut, Lebanon August 11, 2020. Outrage over the catastrophic chemicals explosion that killed at least 172 people has fueled protests in which hundreds of people have been injured in confrontations between security forces and demonstrators. The government of Prime Minister Hassan Diab resigned earlier this week. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, his wife Jill Biden, vice presidential candidate Senator Kamala Harris and her husband Douglas Emhoff pose while keeping social distance after a campaign event at Alexis Dupont High School in Wilmington, Delaware, August 12, 2020.



A Belarusian law enforcement officer gestures next to injured protester Yevgeny Zaichkin during clashes after presidential election polls closed in Minsk, Belarus, August 9, 2020. Zaichkin, who was reported to have died during bloody clashes with police after the presidential election, told Reuters he had survived a brutal police beating and that he expected to be detained



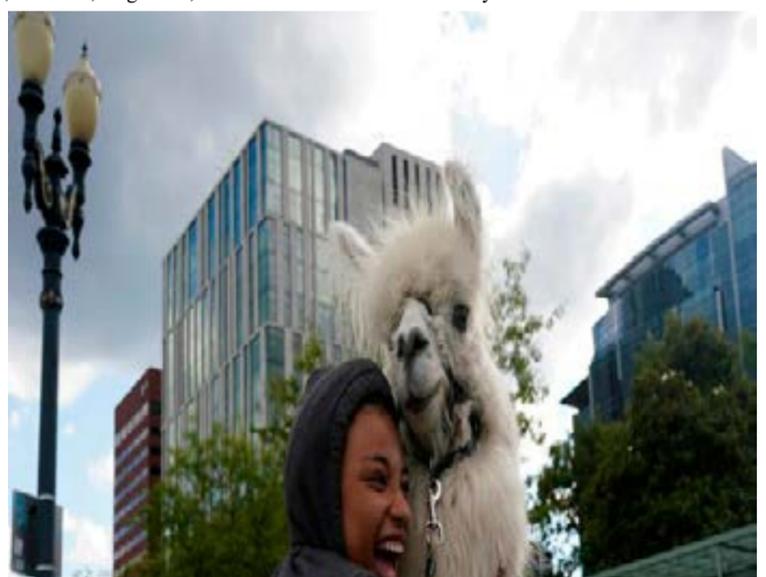
The Japanese bulk carrier ship MV Wakashio that ran aground on a reef is seen at Riviere des Creoles, Mauritius, in this handout image obtained August 10, 2020. The tanker struck a coral reef on Mauritius' southeast coast on July 25 and began leaking 1,000 tonnes of oil across the Indian Ocean island's most pristine beaches, raising fears of a major ecological crisis. French Army command/Handout via REUTERS



Emmanuelle Lteif Khnaisser, who was in labor at the moment of the Beirut port blast and gave birth in the dark amid rubble at St. George hospital, holds her baby George at the family home in Jal el-Dib, Lebanon, August 12, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah McKay



Medical staff treat a patient inside the emergency ward of Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College and Hospital, during the coronavirus outbreak, in Bhagalpur, Bihar, India, July 27, 2020. The COVID-19 hospital is dirty with garbage and discarded protective equipment, where 42-year-old psychiatrist Dr. Kumar Gaurav is now the top official after some doctors were struck down by the coronavirus and others refused to work. The healthcare system in Bhagalpur, like many other parts of Bihar, is on the verge of collapse, Gaurav says.



Lyra Conley hugs therapy llama Caesar McCool at the site of ongoing protests against police violence and racial inequality, in Portland, Oregon, August 6, 2020. Caesar, the six-year-old "No Drama Llama," has become a fixture in the city, extending his woolly neck to nuzzle both Black Lives Matter activists and law enforcement officers in body armor lining up to take selfies with him. REUTERS/Nathan Howard

Texas Education Agency And Texas Department Of State Health Services Now In Talks Over Whether To Collect COVID-19 Case Data

Texas Schools Are Opening But No Tracking Of Coronavirus Planned For The Classrooms



Wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID19, elementary school students walk to class from the gym to begin their school day in Godley, Texas, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

With some Dallas-area school districts just days away from opening their doors for in-person classes, state officials are still trying to decide whether to collect data on the number of coronavirus cases at Texas public schools.

and how it will be recorded," said TEA spokesperson Frank Ward. When asked if it would tally cases at school districts throughout the state and provide those totals to the public, DSHS spokesperson Lyndsey Rosales said that the agency was "in current discussions about that."



Failure to notify such a condition is a Class B misdemeanor, under the state's health and

safety code. Local health authorities are also required to pass along all their reports to DSHS, per state law. There's not a requirement, though, to gather all the reports to show disease trends in the state's schools, nor to disaggregate that data to highlight infections on a given campus or district.

Wylie, Prosper and Princeton ISDs, all of which open next week -- is handled by the Texas Health Trace program through DSHS, said the county's public health director, Candy Blair. As such, Collin County would not provide any additional reporting.

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