STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1468

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(b)(17), I issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of April 6, 2020, there are 1,738 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 recommends avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions and Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding social gatherings where 10 people or more may come into close contact; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, I issued Executive Order 1463, prohibiting non-essential gatherings in groups of more than 10 people in a single space at the same time where individuals are in close proximity to each other; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2019, the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Republican Party adopted its Call of Convention ("Call"), which contemplates a State Convention to be held on May 15 and 16, 2020 for the purpose of, *inter alia*, the selection of the Mississippi Republican Party's State Executive Committee and the election of delegates to the Republican National Convention to formally nominate the Republican Party candidate for President of the United States in the 2020 general election; and

WHEREAS, this Call contemplates county conventions be held in each county on April 18, 2020, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, the election of delegates to the aforementioned State Convention; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Democratic Party timely adopted its Delegate Selection Plan, which contemplates Congressional District Caucuses in April and May 2020 and a State Convention on May 23, 2020, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, the selection of delegates to the Democratic National Convention to formally nominate the Democratic Party candidate for President of the United States in the 2020 general election; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1463 renders it impossible for the Mississippi Republican and Democratic Parties to conduct their state conventions according to the plans previously adopted, requiring them to develop a new plan for the selection of delegates to their national conventions; and

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1053 requires the State Executive Committee of a political party to establish the method and procedures for the selection of its State Executive Committee at least ninety (90) days before their implementation; and

WHEREAS, Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1055 requires the State Executive Committee of a political party to establish the methods and procedures for the selection of delegates and delegate alternates to the nominating convention of the party at least (90) days prior to the second Tuesday in March; and

WHEREAS, because Executive Order 1463 renders it impossible for the Mississippi Republican and Democratic Parties to conduct their conventions according to the methods and procedures they established prior to the deadline established in Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1055, and because this deadline has long since passed, rendering it impossible for the Mississippi Republican and Democratic Parties to comply both with my orders and applicable state law:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. That due to the COVID-19 emergency and extreme risk of person-to-person transmission, in order to minimize the interaction and risk of further transmission of COVID-19, and pursuant to Miss. Code. Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(1) § 33-15-11(c)(4), the requirements regarding the selection of State Executive Committees and of delegates and alternate delegates to party nominating conventions, as established in Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-1053 and § 23-15-1055 are hereby suspended.

2. The Mississippi Republican and Democratic Parties are authorized to establish new methods and procedures for the selection of their State Executive Committees and their delegates and alternate delegates to their national conventions.

3. Any political party adopting new methods and procedures pursuant to this order is ordered and directed to file with the Mississippi Secretary of State its new methods and procedures for the selection of its State Executive Committee and its delegates and alternate delegates to its national convention within seven (7) days of their adoption or of the issuance of this order, whichever occurs later.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 9th day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Michael Watson

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE