JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING AND EXTENDING
PROCLAMATIONS 20-05, 20-68, and 20-28, et seq.

20-28.11

Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act Proclamations

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the continued high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued amendatory Proclamations 20-06 through 20-53, 20-55 through 20-67, and 20-69 through 20-71, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington State by limiting person-to-person contact through social distancing and limiting in-person interactions. I issued Proclamation 20-25, et seq., which during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic prohibited all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except under certain circumstances and limitations, and then transitioned to a phased reopening of counties in accordance with specific guidance issued by my office and by the Washington State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, to enable public meetings to occur while maintaining the social distancing and limitations on in-person interactions necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19, on March 24, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-28, prohibiting in-person meetings and waiving and suspending laws and rules concerning RCW 42.56, the Public Records Act, and RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act that hindered conducting public meetings remotely; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions of Proclamation 20-28, et seq., have been periodically extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives, and which I have acknowledged and similarly extended the prohibitions therein in subsequent sequentially numbered proclamations, which proclamations also contained modifications and guidance regarding the waivers, suspensions, and prohibitions; and

WHEREAS, open public meetings are a fundamental part of open government and are essential to provide the people of Washington with timely and accurate information regarding wildfires and COVID-19, to provide them with answers to their questions, to enable public bodies to conduct business in response to the ongoing emergencies, and to dispel misinformation that may be spread through social media or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, to enable necessary public meetings in areas where telecommunications services were interrupted or degraded due to wildfires, on September 16, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-28.10 modifying the prohibitions and guidance set forth in Proclamations 20-28 and prior amendments; but today, those telecommunication interruptions due to wildfires are no longer present, so those modifications to 20-28 initially outlined in 20-28.10 are not necessary at this time and are not further extended here; and

WHEREAS on October 1, 2020, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(4), the statutory waivers and suspensions in Proclamation 20-28, et seq., were again extended by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2020, whichever occurs first; and

WHEREAS, to fully extend Proclamations 20-28, et seq., it is also necessary for me to extend the prohibitions provided therein; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to address the impacts and long-term effects of the emergencies on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situations, and under RCW 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments remain in effect, and that the prohibitions in Proclamations 20-28, et seq., are amended to (1) recognize the extension of the statutory waivers and suspensions of RCW 42.56 and RCW 42.30 by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives until the termination of the COVID19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2020, whichever occurs first, and (2) similarly extend the prohibitions therein, with the exception of the new prohibitions included in 20-28.10 as a result of telecommunication disruptions caused by wildfires, until the termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency or 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2020, whichever occurs first.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented throughout state government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires.

I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The

Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 2nd day of October, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State