STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-97

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 - Municipal Elections in Pasco County)

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order number 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-91, as amended by Executive Order 20-92, limiting the movement of senior citizens, individuals with significant underlying medical conditions and all persons, except when providing or obtaining essential services and essential activities, effective through April 30, 2020, unless extended by subsequent order; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a special act, the date of any municipal election in Pasco County shall be held on the second Tuesday of April of the calendar year, *see* Laws of Fla. ch. 84-506 § 3; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 101.733(1), Florida Statutes, the Supervisor of Elections for Pasco County, who is conducting elections for certain municipalities, has requested on his

behalf, a delay of certain municipal elections scheduled in the month of April, due to the ongoing emergency condition (a copy of his letter is attached); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take additional action to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is slowed, and that residents and visitors in Florida remain safe and secure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, the Florida Elections Emergency Act, Sections 101.733 – 101.74, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Based on the foregoing, I declare an existing and continuing possibility of an emergency before and during the scheduled municipal elections. In order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to exercise their right to vote, to minimize citizen exposure to danger during this emergency, and to protect the integrity of the electoral process, I hereby declare that an election emergency exists in Pasco County.

Section 2. The municipal elections scheduled on April 14, 2020, for the cities of San Antonio, Dade City, and Zephyrhills in Pasco County, are hereby delayed.

Section 3. Pursuant to section 101.733(2), Florida Statutes, upon consultation with the Secretary of State, I will issue a subsequent Executive Order rescheduling the elections as soon as is practicable.

Section 4. I direct the Supervisor of Elections for Pasco County, in conjunction with the municipal clerks from the affected municipalities, to activate and follow the "Comprehensive Emergency Suspension Plan" contained in 1S-9.005, Florida Administrative Code.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 8th day of April, 2020.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 APR -8 PM 6:01
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Brian E. Corley
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April 2, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

My office by special act is responsible for conducting all municipal elections in Pasco County. On Tuesday, April 14, 2020, the City of San Antonio, City of Dade City, and City of Zephyrhills are scheduled for municipal elections. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to your recent Executive Orders, I have discussed with each city my safety concerns for the citizens, our poll workers, and my staff at the various election precincts. Pursuant to Florida Statute Section 101.733(1), I am respectfully requesting you issue an Executive Order based on the current pandemic and delay the elections scheduled for April 14, 2020 to the August 18, 2020 scheduled primary election. Said request is consistent with providing and ensuring the health and safety of the voters, employees, and poll workers in the upcoming election.

I appreciate your timely consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Honorable Brian E. Corley
Supervisor of Elections for Pasco County

cc: Laurel M. Lee, Secretary of State
Maria Matthews, Esquire, Division of Elections, Director
Angie Guy, Master Municipal Clerk, City of Dade City
William Poe, City Clerk, Zephyrhills, Florida
Rick Alley, City Clerk, San Antonio, Florida