STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1547

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, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and Mississippi significantly impacts the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, as Mississippi continues to safely recover, the key to reducing spread of COVID-19 is the continued implementation of reasonable public health measures under the current circumstances including social distancing, limited capacity of gatherings where individuals are in prolonged close proximity, and use of face coverings for individuals engaged in close proximity activities and for prolonged gatherings where social distancing is not feasible; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-211 and 23-15-213, county election commissioners are required, on or before April 30th of each year, to attend a training seminar provided by the Office of the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a skills assessment, and file a certification of completion of the same; and

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, the required state election commissioner training and skills assessment testing has been delayed and such training and testing will be unable to be completed by the April 30, 2021 deadline; and

WHEREAS, the Election Commissioners Association of Mississippi and the Office of the Secretary of State have requested an extension of the April 30th deadline for completion of the required training and skills assessment; and

WHEREAS, the services rendered by county election commissioners are essential to the function and operation of state government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution, the Mississippi Emergency Management Law as amended, Miss. Code. Ann. § 33-15-1 *et seq.*, and other laws of the State of Mississippi, and in consultation with the Election Commissioners Association of Mississippi and the Office of the Secretary of State do hereby order and direct as follows:

In order to cope with and respond to the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-11(c)(1), the statutory requirements of Miss. Code Ann. §§ 23-15-211 and 23-15-213 for county election commissioners to attend a training seminar provided by the Office of the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a skills assessment, and file a certification of completion of the same on or before April 30, 2021 is hereby suspended. County election commissioners shall attend a training seminar provided by the Office of

the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a skills assessment, and file a certification of completion of the same on or before July 31, 2021.

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 23RD day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE