STATE *of* NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 20-16

CORONAVIRUS — ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, a state of emergency was proclaimed in Nebraska on March 13, 2020, to control the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19;

WHEREAS, social distancing and deliberately increasing the physical space between people decreases the likelihood of transmitting COVID-19;

WHEREAS, most county offices, including county election offices, are closed to the public at this time;

WHEREAS, the reopening of these offices to the public on April 13, 2020, which is the scheduled date for the commencement of in-person early voting and registration, will increase a public health risk to both voters and to those officials who are required to mail out early voting ballots and to prepare for the opening of the polls on Election Day;

WHEREAS, all citizens can register to vote online or by mail; and

WHEREAS, all registered voters were mailed an application to request an early ballot and drop boxes were purchased for each county for the convenience of voters who can either mail their ballots to their county election office or drop the ballots in the drop boxes.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, do hereby waive specific statutes pertaining to the Election Act for the purpose of conducting the primary election.

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Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby order the following:

1. The provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-302 and § 32-311(1) are waived only to the extent that the statutes allow for in-person registration inside of county election offices; and

2. The provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-942 and § 32-943 are waived only to the extent that the statutes require county election offices to be open for individuals who do not require the use of an ADA accessible ballot marking device. All county election offices must continue to accommodate voters who require the use of an ADA accessible ballot marking device in order to independently, privately, and securely cast an early ballot, or voters who require an election official to physically assist in completion of their ballots. Voters requesting these accommodations may schedule an appointment with their local election office; and

3. The provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-940 are waived to the extent that those provisions require a county election office to be open for in-person business. Voters who qualify under this statute may schedule an appointment with their local election office; and

4. This waiver shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect through May 13, 2020.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 7th day of April, 2020.

Pete Ricketts, Governor
State of Nebraska

Attest:

Robert B. Evnen,
Secretary of State
State of Nebraska