Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

AMENDED NUMBER FIFTY-SIX (2020)

POSTPONING JUNE 9, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION TO JUNE 23, 2020 DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Importance of the Issue

The Commonwealth continues to respond to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The actions we take now will help protect the health and safety of our citizens for months to come. These actions include when to hold our elections. Voting is a fundamental right and no one should have to choose between their health and safety and their right to vote.

Directive

To continue with the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19 and in furtherance of Executive Order 51 (March 12, 2020), Amended Executive Order 53 (April 15, 2020), and Executive Order 55 (March 30, 2020), and by virtue of the authority vested in me by § 24.2-603.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, I order the following:

1. The provisions of this Order shall apply to the primary elections scheduled to be held on June 9, 2020.

2. That the primary elections scheduled for June 9, 2020, shall be held on June 23, 2020.

3. Only those candidates who qualified to have their names printed on the official ballot for June 9, 2020 primary election shall be listed for those offices on the ballot for the June 23, 2020 primary election. No other person shall be entitled to qualify to have their name printed on the official ballot for any office that was scheduled to be nominated at the June 9, 2020 primary election.

4. Pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, 52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1), the voter registration deadline for the June 23, 2020 primary elections shall be May 26, 2020.

5. Pursuant to § 24.2-701.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, absentee voting shall be available 45 days prior to the date of a primary election. This date is Saturday, May 9, 2020, unless the relevant general registrar's office is not open on May 9, 2020, in which case it shall be Friday, May 8, 2020.

    a. Pursuant to § 24.2-701(B)(2) of the *Code of Virginia*, qualified voters shall have until June 16, 2020 to request an absentee ballot.

    b. Pursuant to § 24.2-701(B)(1) of the *Code of Virginia*, the last day to vote absentee in person shall be June 20, 2020.

    c. Pursuant to § 24.2-709(A) of the *Code of Virginia*, the deadline for returning an absentee ballot shall be 7:00 p.m. on June 23, 2020, except as provided under § 24.2-709(B) of the *Code of Virginia*.

6. Pursuant to § 24.2-603.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Department of Elections shall prescribe appropriate procedures to implement the provisions of this section. The Department of Elections shall also prescribe procedures in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Department of Health to assist in ensuring the safety and well-being of election officials, officers of election, and voters. The Department of Elections shall partner with the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps to train election officials on preventive actions to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and to provide support at polling locations.

Effective Date of this Executive Order

This Executive Order amends Executive Order 56 and shall be effective on April 13, 2020 and remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 24th day of April 2020.

Ralph S. Northam, Governor

Attest:

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth