JARED POLIS
GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Ordering the Temporary Suspension of Certain Regulatory Statutes Concerning Petition Gathering for Unaffiliated and Independent Candidates for Office Due to the Presence of COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701 *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order ordering the temporary suspension of certain regulatory statutes concerning petition collection for unaffiliated and independent candidates due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb and we have evidence of community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020 and issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003 on March 11, 2020. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

We must take action to minimize the duration of this epidemic and the disruption to our daily lives. The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread primarily by close contact between people and through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Public health experts recommend we practice "social distancing," or maintaining a physical distance of six (6) feet or more from other people, as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This Executive Order temporarily suspends the statutory provisions that allow collection of petitions for unaffiliated candidates and directs the Secretary of State to promulgate and issue temporary emergency rules to allow unaffiliated candidates attempting to petition onto the ballot for the 2020 General Election to begin circulating

petitions no later than June 1, 2020 and extending the deadline for unaffiliated candidates to circulate petitions to no later than July 27, 2020.

II. **Directives**

A. I temporarily suspend C.R.S. §§ 1-4-802(1)(d)(I) and 1-4-802(1)(f)(I), which establish the time period during which unaffiliated and independent candidates may circulate petitions.

B. I direct the Secretary of State to promulgate and issue emergency rules to allow unaffiliated and independent candidates attempting to petition onto the 2020 General Election ballot to begin circulating petitions no later than June 1, 2020 and to extend the deadline for unaffiliated and independent candidates to circulate petitions to no later than July 27, 2020.

III. **Duration**

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from April 30, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this thirtieth day of April, 2020

Jared Polis
Governor