STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1461

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 impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of March 19, 2020, there are 50 presumptive and confirmed cases in Mississippi that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for responding to COVID-19 recommends avoiding crowds as much as possible, especially for older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions and Mississippi State Department of Health has recommended avoiding social gatherings where 10 people or more may come into close contact; and

WHEREAS, the Republican primary runoff election for Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi is currently set for March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, limiting social interaction between members of the public to minimize the risk of person-to-person transmission includes interaction among Circuit Clerks and their staffs, poll workers, Election Commissioners, other office staff, and members of the public in polling places during the currently scheduled March 31, 2020, Republican primary runoff election for the Second Congressional District who may be in a position to interact and transmit COVID-19 to other individuals, including vulnerable populations including older adults and individuals with serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, a number of polling places throughout the Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi have temporarily closed in response to COVID-19 in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS due to health and safety concerns related to the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 and related impact on the election process, the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi, the Chairman of the Republican Party of Mississippi, and the Chairman of the Hinds County Republican Party request and recommend rescheduling of the Republican primary runoff election for Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State recommends resetting the Republican primary runoff election for Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi to June 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS in consultation with the State Health Officer, the rescheduling of the Republican primary runoff election for Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi is a

necessary measure to cope with the COVID-19 public emergency to minimize the interaction and risk of possible further transmission of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. That, due to the COVID-19 emergency and extreme risk of person-to-person transmission, in order to minimize the interaction and risk of further transmission of COVID-19, and pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-11(c)(1) & §33-15-11(c)(4), the requirement to hold the Republican primary runoff election for Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi on March 31, 2020 set by Miss. Code Ann. §23-15-1083 is hereby suspended and the primary runoff election is rescheduled and set for June 23, 2020.

2. The statutory deadlines for voter registration and absentee ballots shall be calculated and fixed according to the June 23, 2020 election.

3. All other laws, regulations and deadlines not altered or suspended by this Executive Order remain in place.

4. The State Board of Election Commissioners, the Election Commissioners of each county in the Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi, the Republican Party of Mississippi and its Second Congressional District county officials, and all other persons or officers charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the Second Congressional District of the State of Mississippi, shall govern themselves consistent with, and according to, this Executive Order.

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 20th day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Michael Watson

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE