STATE OF ALABAMA

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, I declared the existence of a state public health emergency based on the appearance of the 2019 novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 in the State of Alabama;

WHEREAS that initial proclamation included provisions designed to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and in mitigating the consequences of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social-distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS new implications of COVID-19 come to light on a continual basis, requiring flexibility and adaptability by all levels of government within the State of Alabama;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, pursuant to relevant provisions of the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, Ala. Code §§ 31-9-1 *et seq.*, do hereby proclaim the existence of conditions that warrant implementation of additional extraordinary measures and relief during the state health emergency now in effect in order to guard public health and protect human life. I therefore proclaim and direct all of the following:

I. Rescheduling of the March 31, 2020, Primary Runoff Election

I find that conducting the primary runoff election currently scheduled for March 31, 2020, poses a serious public-health threat because there is not enough time before then to implement best practices for safely conducting an election under conditions related to COVID-19. To that end:

A. The primary runoff election scheduled for March 31, 2020, is hereby rescheduled to July 14, 2020.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or modify any other provision of state law regarding the conduct of this primary runoff election. The Secretary of State and appropriate election officials shall take all reasonable efforts to publicize voter registration and absentee-voting opportunities.

C. The Secretary of State shall amend his Administrative Calendar to reflect the rescheduled primary runoff date and provide a copy to all appropriate election officials via certified mail and email. The Secretary of State shall also provide an amended copy of the Alabama Fair Campaign Practices Act filing calendar to all

candidates and committees participating in the rescheduled primary runoff election.

II. School Closures

This supplemental proclamation shall ratify my previous order, issued orally on March 13, 2020, requiring the closure of all K-12 public schools at the end of the day Wednesday, March 18, 2020, with reopening scheduled for the start of school on Monday, April 6, 2020, should circumstances permit. Nothing in this section shall supersede any decision or order issued prior to the date of this supplemental proclamation that require school closures to a greater extent than required by this section. The State Superintendent of Education and State Health Officer shall consult with one another on a continuing basis and provide recommendations to me, as warranted, regarding the opening or closure of schools in response to COVID-19.

III. Open Meetings Act

I find that the government response to COVID-19 requires a careful balance between concerns for public health and safety (including the effectiveness of COVID-19 mitigation strategies), for the continued operations of governmental body, and for the right of the public to the open conduct of government. To that end:

A. Notwithstanding any provision of the Open Meetings Act, members of a governmental body may participate in a meeting—and establish a quorum, deliberate, and take action—by means of telephone conference, video conference, or other similar communications equipment if:

   1. Any deliberation conducted, or action taken, during the meeting is limited to matters within the governmental body's statutory authority that is (a) necessary to respond to COVID-19 or (b) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body; and

   2. The communications equipment allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear one another at the same time.

B. Governmental bodies conducting a meeting pursuant to this section are encouraged, to the maximum extent possible, to use communications equipment that allows members of the public to listen to, observe, or participate in the meeting.

C. No less than twelve hours following the conclusion of a meeting conducted pursuant to this section, a governmental body shall post a summary of the meeting in a prominent location on its website—or, if it has no website, in any other location or using any other method designed to provide reasonable notice to the public. The summary shall recount the deliberations conducted and the actions taken with reasonable specificity to allow the public to understand what happened.

D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or modify any other provision of the Open Meetings Act, including the notice requirements found in section 36-25A-3 and the enforcement, penalty, and remedy provisions found in section 36-25A-9. Any action or actions taken in violation of paragraph A will be deemed invalid.

E. To the maximum extent possible, the terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in section 36-25A-2 of the Open Meetings Act.

IV. Procurement of emergency-related supplies

I find that state agencies and local awarding authorities may be required to procure goods or services to properly and adequately respond to the public health threat posed by COVID-19. Therefore, my emergency proclamation dated March 13, 2020, shall satisfy the notice and writing requirements of the emergency provisions found in sections 41-16-23 and 41-16-53 of the competitive bid law. I hereby authorize state agencies and local awarding authorities to enter into contracts for goods and services without public advertisement to the extent necessary to respond to COVID-19. State agencies and local awarding authorities shall maintain accurate and fully itemized records of all expenditures made pursuant to this section.

V. Reimbursement for certain state employees

I proclaim that it is fair, reasonable, and appropriate that those State of Alabama employees who are required to perform response services away from their home base of operations be reimbursed for the actual expenses they incur while performing these services on behalf of the State of Alabama. Therefore, I authorize the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, as prescribed by the Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual, for state employees who have been, are being, or may be called away from their home base in response to this state of emergency. All such claims for expense reimbursement must be reasonable and must be certified as such by the employee's agency head or appointing authority.

FURTHER, to the extent a provision of this supplemental proclamation conflicts with any provision of state law, such law is hereby suspended for the duration of this state of emergency, and this proclamation shall control.

FURTHER, I declare that this proclamation and all subsequent orders, laws, rules, or regulations issued pursuant hereto shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the public health emergency unless rescinded or extended by proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 18th day of March, 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey
Governor

ATTEST:

John H. Merrill

John H. Merrill
Secretary of State