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D 2020 148

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending Executive Orders D 2020 053, D 2020 085, and D 2020 119 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 extending Executive Orders D 2020 053, D 2020 085, and D 2020 119, which order 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 on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, and D 2020 125. 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 extends Executive Orders D 2020 053, D 2020 085 and D 2020 119, which temporarily suspend the statutory provisions that allow collection of petitions for unaffiliated candidates and ensure designated election officials have adequate time to review and provide notification of sufficiency or insufficiency to unaffiliated candidates.

II. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 053, as extended by Executive Orders D 2020 085, D 2020 119, and this Executive Order, shall expire on July 27, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 053, as extended by Executive Order D 2020 085 and D 2020 119, shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-sixth day of July, 2020.

Jared Polis
Governor