STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS: EO 20 - 08

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO AMEND EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-03 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORDERING FUNDS RELEASED TO DEFRAY PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19

WHEREAS: An outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread throughout China and to 59 other countries and territories, including the United States;

WHEREAS: COVID-19 has been detected within the State of Arkansas and adjoining states, threatening the public safety of the citizens of Arkansas;

WHEREAS: Great hardship has been brought to bear upon the citizens this state as a result of the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS: On March 11, 2020, by Executive Order 20-03, an emergency was declared in the state as a result of COVID-19, and that emergency is on-going; and

WHEREAS: State resources are continuously being deployed to render maximum aid and assistance during this emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.*, do hereby amend Executive Order 20-03 declaring an emergency in the State of Arkansas, and order the following for the duration of this emergency:

(1) Authorize funds from the Governor's Disaster Assistance Fund, in the amount of $30,000,000. Such funds will be used at the discretion of the Director of the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management to defray both program and administrative costs; and

(2) I am suspending the following provisions of Arkansas Code to aid County Officials and County Boards of Election Commissioners to carry out their duties in respect to the March 31, 2020 elections:

a) Provisions under Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-101(d)(3)(A) and 7-5-101(e)(2)(C) regarding the moving and consolidation of polling sites to allow counties to consolidate polls to no less than one (1) polling site up to three (3) days before the election so long as adequate notice of the change has been posted at polling sites that would have otherwise been used absent the emergency;

b) Provisions under Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-402 that require qualified electors be unavoidably absent or unable to attend an election due to illness or physical disability, so that all eligible qualified electors currently entitled to vote in the March 31, 2020 election may request the appropriate absentee ballots from their county of residence.

c) Provisions under Arkansas Code Annotated § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(ii) to allow county officials to act on an application for an absentee ballot that is received within seven (7) days before the election date and subsequently mail an absentee ballot

to the qualified elector who requested the ballot if the voter is otherwise entitled to vote in the election.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2020.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor