State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 214 JBE 2020

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2021, MARCH 20, 2021, AND APRIL 24, 2021 ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Governor declared a Statewide Emergency via Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 on March 11, 2020, in response to the imminent threat posed by the novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19), and this emergency remains in effect;

WHEREAS, in response to the continued threat posed by COVID-19, the Governor renewed the State of Emergency Declaration on December 22, 2020, in Proclamation Number 209 JBE 2020;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State certified to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, on December 17, 2020, that a state of emergency exists and that such emergency impairs an election that may otherwise be held except for technical, mechanical, or logistical problems impairing the upcoming elections in the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the novel circumstances and uncertainty caused by COVID-19 requires an emergency election plan be adopted to modify usual election processes and procedures to address the circumstances;

WHEREAS, the pandemic places Louisiana's older population at a higher risk of complications caused by the COVID-19 virus and a majority of the State's commissioners are over the age of 65;

WHEREAS, some commissioners may not be able to serve for the February 6, 2021 and/or March 20, 2021 and/or April 24, 2021 elections and there may be a shortage of commissioners to conduct in person voting during early voting and on election day;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure voters are provided ample opportunity to vote in the February 6, 2021, March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections, it is necessary to implement election processes and procedures to ensure maximum protections for citizens participating in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to exercise their right to vote, minimize a person's exposure to danger during declared states of emergency, and protect the integrity of the electoral process;

WHEREAS, any election plan adopted in response to this emergency should be in full compliance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and allow for accommodations for potential voters who may be at risk for complications from COVID-19 as well as potential voters who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who have had recent close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the statewide public health emergency impairs the February 6, 2021, March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct that a state of emergency exists for the February 6, 2021, March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections pursuant to La. R.S. 18:401.3(B)(1). This declaration of emergency shall not be considered to be an approval of the election plan submitted by the Secretary of State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22nd day of December, 2020.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE