



OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

EMERGENCY ELECTION DIRECTIVE

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has reported an outbreak of thousands of cases of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in multiple countries, causing illness and deaths; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency to coordinate the State of Iowa's response to this outbreak and such disaster continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation declaring that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency to provide additional needed resources and measures to respond to this disaster, and such public health disaster continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, President Donald J. Trump, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, announced new guidelines which encourage Americans to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people; and

WHEREAS, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 may be substantially reduced by community containment strategies that may include temporarily closing certain buildings and reducing opportunities for the public to gather; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is currently recommending that all health care facilities restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with Iowa's election laws would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action to slow the spread of COVID-19 in all counties of our state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, PAUL D. PATE, Iowa Secretary of State, by the power and authority vested in me by the Iowa Code §47.1 do hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

Absentee voting

Section 1. The timeline specified in Iowa Code §53.8(1)(a) shall be temporarily extended to forty days before the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

Section 2. Commissioners shall mail absentee ballots to voters who submit a request and are covered by the provisions of Iowa Code §53.22.

Section 3. The provisions of Iowa Code §§53.22(3) and 53.22(6) shall apply to individuals admitted to health care facilities following the deadline specified in Iowa Code §53.2(1)(b).

Section 4. The ability to submit a petition pursuant to Iowa Code §53.11 shall be temporarily suspended.

Acceptable Forms of Identification for Voting on Election Day

Section 5. In accordance with the Governor's March 17, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, acceptable forms of identification presented pursuant to Iowa Code §§48A.7A, 48A.8, and 49.78 that have an expiration date of January 1, 2020 or later shall be considered current and valid.

Polling Places

Section 6. The ability to submit a petition pursuant to Iowa Code §49.11(3)(a)(1) shall be temporarily suspended.

Section 7. The number of individuals allowed in a polling place pursuant to Iowa Code §49.104(2) shall be temporarily reduced to one per political party.

Section 8. The requirements of Iowa Code §§49.12 through 49.16 related to party balance shall be temporarily waived.

The provisions of this proclamation shall be effective immediately, unless otherwise noted, and shall only apply to the June 2, 2020 Primary Election. This directive shall not be construed to otherwise modify the directive issued on March 20, 2020. This Emergency Election Directive shall expire following the administration of the June 2, 2020 Primary Election unless sooner terminated or extended in writing by me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Pate", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul D. Pate, Iowa Secretary of State

March 23, 2020