



OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

April 17, 2020

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, schools are currently closed by order of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the transmission of mail through the international mail stream has been severely impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's Uniformed and Overseas Citizens (UOCAVA) voters rely on international mail to receive and return their absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code §53.51 states that absentee voting laws "shall be liberally construed in order to provide means and opportunity for qualified voters of the state of Iowa serving in the armed forces of the United States to vote,"; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code §53.37 defines "armed forces of the United States" to include not only members of the United States Military, but also private citizens currently located outside of the United States; 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:

High School Students as Precinct Election Officials

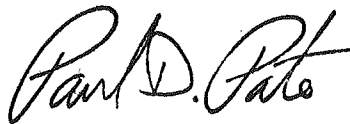
Section 1. To allow high school students to serve as precinct election officials, the requirements of Iowa Code §§ 49.13(6)(a)(4) and 49.13(6)(g) shall be waived for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

Compliance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

Section 2. To ensure access for Iowa's UOCAVA voters, the electronic transmission of a voted absentee ballot from the voter to their County Commissioner of Elections shall be permitted for all UOCAVA voters for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election. All UOCAVA voters who utilize electronic transmission of their voted ballot for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election shall be required to waive their right to a secret ballot through the current process of signing an affidavit to that effect.

Programming of Election Equipment

Section 3. The requirement of IAC 721—22.201(1)(a) that tabulating devices be programmed to only accept ballots from precincts located at the polling place where the tabulated device is set to deploy shall be temporarily waived for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Pate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "D".

Paul D. Pate

Iowa Secretary