

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER N-xx-20**

**WHEREAS** on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** hundreds of local governments across the state have also declared states of emergency, imposed or recommended social distancing, and taken other significant steps to reduce the transmission rate of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** State law requires the Presidential General Election be held on November 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS** State law currently requires that this election be conducted using in-person voting at polling locations or vote centers throughout each county; and

**WHEREAS** in-person voting presents risks to public health and safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and threatens to undermine social distancing measures imposed by the State Public Health Officer, as well as other aspects of the response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** our elections must be accessible, secure and safe; and

**WHEREAS** California's existing vote-by-mail procedures can be used to conduct the Presidential General Election on November 3, 2020, in a manner that is accessible, secure and safe; and

**WHEREAS**, state and local election officials require a prompt and timely decision on the conduct of the Presidential General Election to make plans, including logistical preparations and necessary purchases.

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 and the response thereto may impair the ability of state and local officials, including county election officials and the Secretary of State, and the volunteers supporting them, to meet statutory deadlines associated with ballot counting, tabulation, and other responsibilities related to the official canvass, including certification of the canvass, audits and/or manual tallies of election results and reporting of the official canvass results.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567 and 8571, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1) Notwithstanding Elections Code sections 1500 and 4000-4007 (including, but not limited to, the conditions otherwise imposed on all mail ballot elections in Election Code section 4000 and 4001.5), and any other applicable provision of state law, the November 3, 2020, Presidential General Election to be held in the State of California shall be held as an all-mail ballot election and conducted according to those provisions of the Elections Code that govern all-mail ballot elections, including but not limited to Elections Code sections 3000-3026 and 4100. The county elections officials responsible for conducting this election shall transmit vote-by-mail ballots to all voters eligible to vote in this election.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, elections officials are authorized to make in-person voting opportunities available on or before Election Day for this election in a manner consistent with public health and safety, to accommodate the need for voter accessibility. Elections officials shall provide the maximum possible notice to voters about how to participate in this election, paying particular attention to the needs of voters at high risk from COVID-19, individuals with disabilities, and other voters with particularized needs.

2) Notwithstanding Elections Code sections 3019, 15100-15112, 15300- 15376, 15400-15402, 15450-15490, and 15500- 15505; California Code of Regulations, Title 2, sections 20027, 20108.75, 20108.8, and 20110-20126; and any other applicable provision of state law, all deadlines associated with completing, auditing, and reporting on the official canvass of the November 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election are extended by 7 days to December 7, 2020. Counties are urged to complete activities related to the official canvass according to the deadlines ordinarily imposed by state law, to the extent possible. The Secretary of State is requested to issue guidance to county elections officials concerning compliance with this paragraph.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused  
the Great Seal of the State of  
to be of fixed this xxth day of xxx 2020  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**  
ALEX PADILLA

Secretary of State