

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-82

(Emergency Management-Elections)

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall in Bay County as a category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, traveled across North Florida, and exited the state as a category 3 hurricane, disrupting the lives of Floridians throughout the Florida Panhandle; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Hurricane Michael included destruction of and damage to public and private facilities, loss of power to more than 400,000 homes and businesses; disruption in telecommunications capability, damage to public roads and highways, and the evacuation of families from their homes; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Hurricane Michael described above have had a particular impact-continuing to this day-on Gulf County (the "Affected County"), with reports of severe damage to infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Primary Election is scheduled for April 9, 2019, vote-by-mail balloting is already in progress, and the mandatory early voting period is scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the General Election is scheduled for June 18, 2019, and the mandatory early voting period is scheduled to begin on Saturday, June 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County has reported to Florida's Secretary of State that polling locations have sustained damage and are unusable now; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that eligible voters in the Affected County have ample opportunities to vote in the Primary and General Election is paramount; and

WHEREAS, because of the effects of Hurricane Michael in the Affected County, the strict application of some provisions of the Florida Election Code may prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency and may preclude the local Supervisor of Elections from providing voters in the Affected County with the same opportunities to cast ballots as voters outside the Affected County; and

WHEREAS, the Affected County is still under the state of emergency declared by Executive Order 18-276, and extended by Executive Order 18-360 and 19-33;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, by the Elections Emergency Act, and all other applicable laws, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1 (Early Voting):

Because of the foregoing emergency conditions, I hereby suspend the application of the following limited provisions of Section 101.657, Florida Statutes, in the Affected County and establish the following limited exceptions related to early voting:

The Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County who, as a result of the destruction caused by Hurricane Michael, determines that additional early voting opportunities are necessary to provide the voters in his or her county an adequate opportunity to cast ballots, shall have the authority to:

- a. Designate one or more additional or alternative early voting sites, notwithstanding the deadlines and facility eligibility restrictions set forth in Section 101.657(1)(a) and (b),

Florida Statutes, provided the early voting sites are geographically located so as to provide all voters in the Affected County an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable; and

- b. Conduct early voting in the Affected County beginning on the 15th day before the General Election and ending on the day of the General Election, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 101.657(1)(d), Florida Statutes.

Section 2 (Vote-by Mail Ballots):

Because of the foregoing emergency conditions, I hereby suspend the application of the following limited provisions of section 101.62, Florida Statutes, in the Affected County and establish the following limited exceptions relating to vote-by-mail ballots:

- a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 101.62(4)(c)1., Florida Statutes, the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County shall have the authority to send vote-by-mail ballots by forwardable mail to allow electors to accept delivery at an alternative address provided by the elector to the United States Postal Service; and

Section 3 (Relocation or Consolidation of Polling Places):

Because of the foregoing emergency conditions, I hereby suspend the application of the following limited provisions of Section 101.001, Florida Statutes, in the Affected County and establish the following limited exceptions relating to polling places:

- a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 101.001, Florida Statutes, the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County who, as a result of the destruction caused by Hurricane Michael, determines that it is necessary to relocate or consolidate any polling place, shall have the authority to relocate or consolidate polling places within

the Affected County, including relocation or consolidation of polling places with early voting sites.

Section 4 (Election Coordination):

I hereby direct the Secretary of State, as Chief Election Office, to coordinate efforts between the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County and Supervisor of Elections outside the Affected County to ensure voting opportunities for those affected by Hurricane Michael, including efforts to ensure the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots to law enforcement, military, first responders, utility line workers, and volunteers assisting with recovery efforts; efforts to ensure the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots to residents of nursing homes and hospital patients in the Affected County who were evacuated to facilities outside their county of residence; and all other appropriate actions consistent with the Florida Election Code and this Executive Order.

All executive agencies are directed, and all other state agencies are requested, to render such aid and assistance as needed by the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County to the end that the purposes of this Executive Order may be accomplished.

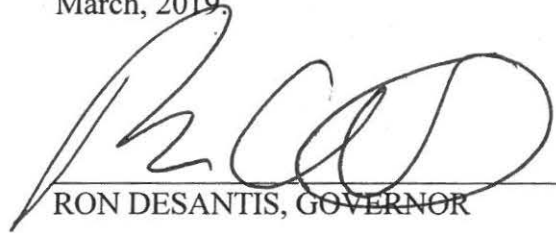
Section 5 (Notice to the Public and the Division of Elections):

The Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County who exercise authority under this Executive Order shall immediately certify that fact to the Director of the Division of Elections of the Florida Department of State and shall provide notice to the public regarding any changes in voting locations or procedures in a manner designed to ensure widespread dissemination of voting information to members of the public in the Affected County, including through print and broadcast media, website postings, and posted signage at polling locations.

The Secretary of State is directed to notify me of the Supervisor of Elections in the Affected County who avail themselves of the limited exceptions contained in this Executive Order.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 19th day of March, 2019.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2019 MAR 19 PM 12:15
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA