



City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020 ~ 3:30 P.M. CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM ~ 126 W. MAIN STREET

Linda Langerhans, Mayor
Tom Musselman, Councilmember
Bobby Watson, Councilmember

Charlie Kiehne, Councilmember
Gary Neffendorf, Councilmember
Kent Myers, City Manager

The City of Fredericksburg City Council will meet in a special session on Monday, March 23, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room, 126 W. Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas. This is an open meeting, open to the public, subject to the Open Meetings Law of the State of Texas, and as required by law, notice is hereby posted on March 20, 2020, before 5:00 p.m., providing time, place, date and agenda thereof. **However, the City Fredericksburg will be adhering to the CDC guidelines and be limiting the meeting to 10 people in a gathering and encourage residents to listen to the meeting on KNAF and on fbg.live.** The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are provided. Requests for accommodations or interpretative services must be made to the City Secretary 48 hours prior to this meeting.

(Please turn off all pagers and phones, except emergency on-call personnel.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The City Council welcomes public comments concerning items on this agenda. Each member of the public who desires to address the City Council regarding an item on this agenda is required to sign up to speak, prior to the start of the meeting. All public comments shall be limited to discussion of items on this agenda. At the discretion of the Mayor, or upon an affirmative vote of the City Council, the public comment time limit applicable to all speakers may be lengthened or shortened as required to allow the City Council to complete its agenda. Persons addressing the City Council are prohibited from trading time with other speakers or reserving of time. **DUE TO THE COVID 19 AND THE CDC GUIDELINES THE CITY IS ENCOURAGING COMMENTS BE SENT TO sgoodwin@fbgtx.org BEFORE 3 P.M. OR FILLING OUT A COMMENT CARD IN THE LOBBY.**

3. CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19)

- a. Report on status of the City response to the Coronavirus pandemic
- b. Discussion and approval of Disaster Declaration
- c. Discussion and approval of temporary closure of certain City services
- d. Report and discussion on financial impact to the City
- e. Discussion on future City Council and advisory board meetings
- f. Discussion of continuing to provide critical City Services.
- g. Discussion and possible action on the May 2, 2020 City of Fredericksburg General Election.

4. ADJOURN

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that I, Shelley Goodwin, posted this Agenda at 4:20 p.m. on March 19, 2020, at the entrance and on the bulletin board of the City of Fredericksburg City Hall, 126 W. Main St., Fredericksburg, Texas.



Shelley Goodwin, TRMC
City Secretary

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
FIRST AMENDED MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fredericksburg, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor declared the original Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster on March 19, 2020, and this First Amended Mayoral Declaration sets forth a minor modification of the definition of "Community Gathering" in Section 6, to ensure consistency with the current Gillespie County declaration and the Governor's Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Fredericksburg, Texas, due to public health emergency and pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Fredericksburg, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals.

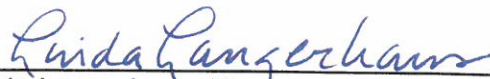
SECTION 6. That this declaration hereby prohibits any Community Gathering in the City of Fredericksburg. For the purposes of this Section 6, a "Community Gathering" is defined as a scheduled indoor event or a scheduled outdoor event, that brings together or is likely to bring together more than ten (10) persons in a common space, room, or area, including but not limited to conferences, festivals, parades, special events, concerts, and sporting events. For the purposes of this Section 6, a "Community Gathering" does not include regular attendance at public or private schools, public or private colleges and universities, and daycare centers.

SECTION 7. That in accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days. That in accordance with Section 11-28 of the City of Fredericksburg Code of Ordinances, a person who fails to comply with this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$2,000.00.

SECTION 8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 9. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the City Council, shall continue in effect until terminated by the Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time as deemed necessary. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the provisions of this First Amended Mayoral Declaration and those of the original Mayoral Declaration declared on March 19, 2020, this First Amended Mayoral Declaration shall prevail.

DECLARED this 20th day of March, 2020, at 8:52 pm.



Linda Langerhans, Mayor
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

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WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS:

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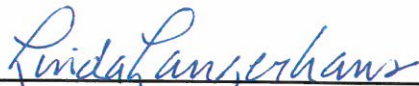
conferences, festivals, parades, special events, concerts, and sporting events. For the purposes of this Section 6, a "Community Gathering" does not include regular attendance at public or private schools, public or private colleges and universities, and daycare centers.

SECTION 7. That in accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days. That in accordance with Section 11-28 of the City of Fredericksburg Code of Ordinances, a person who fails to comply with this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$2,000.00.

SECTION 8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 9. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the City Council, shall continue in effect until terminated by the Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this 19th day of March, 2020.



Linda Langerhans, Mayor
City of Fredericksburg, Texas



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 19, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:59 AM O'CLOCK

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

MAR 19 2020
[Signature]
Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor
GSD/gsd

Attachment

POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 512-463-2000 (VOICE) DIAL 7-1-1 FOR RELAY SERVICES

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
March 19, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 08

Relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, "[t]he governor is responsible for meeting . . . the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" (Section 418.001 of the Texas Government Code), and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:52 AM O'CLOCK
MAR 19 2020

- Order No. 1 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Order No. 2 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Order No. 4 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding governor.



Given under my hand this the
19th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature of Ruth R. Hughes in black ink.

RUTH R. HUGHES
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:59 AM 0'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020



Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D.

DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

March 19, 2020

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, John W. Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, do hereby certify that the introduction and spread of the communicable disease known as COVID-19 in the State of Texas has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 81.082(d) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, I do hereby declare a state of public health disaster for the entire State of Texas.

Pursuant to Section 81.002 of the code, each person shall act responsibly to prevent and control communicable disease. The following actions, taken immediately, will reduce and delay the spread of COVID-19:

- People, businesses and communities should immediately undertake hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation practices that are accessible, affordable and known to be effective against COVID-19.
 - Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
 - If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- People who are known to have, or are under investigation or monitoring, for COVID-19, should adhere to the direction provided to them by duly authorized persons, including public health officials. Failure to abide by such direction may result in involuntary quarantine or isolation for the purposes of preventing further community spread of COVID-19.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:45 AM O'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020

- People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID-19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover. Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if their symptoms are such that they cannot continue to be cared for in their home. And, when seeking medical care should call their doctor or health care facility before arriving to allow them to prepare.
- Limit trips into the public to essential outings. Traveling to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy or to seek medical care would be considered essential trips.
- Limit as much as possible close contact with other people. Stay six feet away.
- Do not gather in social groups of more than ten (10) individuals.
- Employers should allow work at home alternatives to the greatest extent possible.
- Restaurants should not allow dine-in options, either inside or outside. Take-out and curbside options with minimal contact are permitted and highly encouraged.

The Texas Department of State Health Services will continue to provide the most current and practical advice on how to control the spread of COVID-19 and encourages all Texans to seek additional information from a trusted source such as <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/> or from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>.

Adherence to these rules and the sound public health principles that support them will provide optimal protection for the people of Texas. These measures are necessary to advance the health and safety of all Texans.

Copies of this proclamation will be filed with applicable authorities.

Given under my hand this the

19 day of March, 2020.



JOHN W. HELLERSTEDT, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health

ATTESTED BY:



Ruth Hughes
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:45AM O'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS		
Monday, April 6th (Regular Meeting)		
1	3-16-2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (Consent)	Shelley
2	Institute Annexation Proceedings W. Live Oak 4-6-2020	Brian
3	Amendments to the City Council Procedures	Kent
4	Atmos-GRIP- MidTex-ATM Suspension-Resolution	Kent
5	Discussion on May 2, 2020 Election	
6	Transportation Project Traffic Impact Study	Clinton
Monday, April 20th (Regular Meeting)		
1	4-6-2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (Consent)	Shelley
2	Health Board Presentation	Kelli
3	Audit presentation (April 20th)	Laura
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS		
1	Modification to subdivision ordinance regarding screening against thoroughfares	Brian
2	Amendment to the Fee Ordinance regarding taxi cab fee	Shelley
3	Creation/update of the Commissioners for MarktPlaz Redevelopment	Kent
4	STR Ordinance amendments	Brian
5	W. Live Oak A. Annexation Agreement B. Annexation Ordinance C. Land Use Ordinance D. Zoning Ordinance TBA	Brian
6	Proportionality Street and Utility Study	Clinton
7	Adoption of an Ordinance establishing a Form Survey as part of a building permit.	Brian/David M.
8	Girl Scout presentation for the Mayor (May 4, 2020)	Anna
9	Historic District Guidelines	Brian/Anna

The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.texas.gov



Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Ruth R. Hughes
Secretary of State

ELECTION ADVISORY NO. 2020-12

TO: Election Officials
FROM: Keith Ingram, Director of Elections
DATE: March 18, 2020
RE: Actions for May 2, 2020 Uniform Election Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Keith Ingram, the Director of Elections.

The purpose of this advisory is to provide guidance to local political subdivisions regarding their options for any general or special elections that have been ordered for the May 2, 2020 uniform election date. Pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor has issued a proclamation suspending certain provisions of the Texas Election Code and the Texas Water Code to allow all local political subdivisions that are utilizing the May 2, 2020 uniform election date to postpone their election to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date. Pursuant to Texas Election Code 31.003 and 31.004, our office has issued the following guidelines for entities that choose to exercise this authority and postpone their election to the November uniform election date.

Effect of Postponement of Election

- **Candidate Filings:** By postponing their election date, the political subdivision is preserving all candidate filings and ballot order actions that have already been taken. The postponement does not have the effect of reopening candidate filings.
 - **Deadlines related to Candidate Filings, Declarations of Ineligibility, Withdrawals or Death:** The deadlines that apply to the November 3, 2020 election would apply to all candidates who are currently on the ballot for the May 2, 2020 election.
- **Ballot By Mail Requests:** All applications for a ballot by mail (ABBM) that were filed for the May 2, 2020 election that are marked annual would apply for the November 3, 2020 election. All single use ABBMs that were submitted for reasons of age or disability would still be valid for the November 3, 2020 election. If a single use ABBM was submitted and indicated the reason for voting by mail was due to absence from the county, this ABBM would not be valid as the applicable election date has changed. However, we would recommend that the political subdivision send a letter to these voters along with a new ABBM in case the circumstances

surrounding their absence from the county are still valid or the voter is otherwise eligible to vote by mail.

- **Ballots by Mail:** If a political subdivision has already sent out mail ballots, those mail ballots that are returned would still be valid for the November 3, 2020 postponed election date.
- **Election Records:** All records, including candidate filings, applications to vote by mail, ballot proofs, and printed ballots shall be retained and preserved.
 - **Printed Ballots:** If your ballots have already been printed up, you may be able to reuse them for November. However, if you must change your ballot to reflect any corrections or changes that occur between now and November, you would treat the original ballots as you would in a traditional ballot correction and those ballots should be destroyed in accordance with Section 52.0064 of the Texas Election Code.
- **Requirement to use County Election Precincts in November 2020:** Per Section 42.002 of the Texas Election Code, county election precincts are required for all elections occurring in November 2020. You will need to work with your county election officer to determine whether you need to make any modifications to your ballot in light of this requirement.
- **Requirement for County Election Officer to contract with Local Political Subdivisions:** All county election officers are required to contract with local political subdivisions that postponed their May 2, 2020 election and that request a contract for election services or a joint election agreement with their county election officer pursuant to the Governor's suspension of certain Texas Election Code provisions.
- **Office Hours:** The relevant dates for maintaining office hours for election purposes will be based on the November uniform election date rather than the May election date. Under Section 31.122 of the Texas Election Code, those office hours will need to be maintained for at least three hours each day, during regular office hours, on regular business days between September 14, 2020 and December 13, 2020. However, these entities should post contact information for individuals to contact their office about election-related issues during the timeframe that those offices may be closed over the coming months.
- **Holdovers in Public Office:** Under Art. XVI, Sec. 17 of the Texas Constitution, the individuals who currently hold public offices that are scheduled to be on the ballot on the May uniform election date will continue to exercise the duties of those offices until the new officers take their oaths of office, following the November uniform election date.
- **Campaign Finance Filings:** Please contact the Texas Ethics Commission for further guidance on how these modified timelines will affect any campaign finance reporting requirements. Their office can be reached at (512) 463-5800.
- **Candidates on the ballot in both May and November:** For candidates that may be running for two offices (one normally occurring in May and one normally occurring in November), these candidates will not be removed from the ballot as they are separate elections that are normally not occurring on the same date.

Required Action by Governing Body to Move Election Date

In order to utilize this move, the governing body of the political subdivisions holding the elections must **order** the postponement of their election to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date. The order for this official action should contain the following items:

1. A reference to the proclamation that authorizes the entity to postpone their election date, and the fact that the political subdivision is exercising this authority.
2. Confirmation that the candidate filings for the election will remain valid for the election held on the November date and that the filing period will not be re-opened for the November election date.
3. Confirmation that all ABBMs for voters that are voting by mail due to being over the age of 65 or due to disability will still be valid for the postponed election, and that ABBMs for voters who submitted ABBMs based on expected absence from the county would not be valid for the postponed election.
4. The major relevant dates for the November election, including the voter registration deadline (October 5, 2020), the deadline to submit an ABBM (October 23, 2020), and the dates for early voting (October 19, 2020 – October 30, 2020).

Necessary Revisions to Order of Election

In addition, the entity will need to meet by August 17, 2020 to make any necessary revisions to the entity's original order of election. Those revisions may include:

1. The change to the date of the election;
2. Any change in location of the main early voting location;
3. Any changes to early voting dates and hours, including weekend early voting;
4. Any changes to the identity of the early voting clerk and their contact information; or
5. Any changes to branch early voting locations.

If you are holding a bond election, you may need to make additional revisions to your order of election for that bond election. If this is the case, we recommend reaching out to your bond counsel for additional guidance.

Securing Election Records

All election records should be stored and secured during the postponement period. This may require your entity to use preservation methods that are similar to the methods you would use during the preservation period after the election has occurred. This includes:

- Storing returned ballots by mail in locked, sealed ballot boxes.
- Securely storing any unused ballots.
- Securely retaining any relevant election records, including candidate applications and ABBMs.

Voting System Equipment

If you are leasing voting system equipment from the county or directly from the vendor, then you may need to contact your vendor or your county regarding any necessary modifications to those lease agreements or to modify your procedures and timelines for receiving that equipment.

Open Meeting Requirements

The Governor has suspended and modified certain open meeting requirements pursuant to his disaster declaration. These changes include allowing the entity to establish procedures for telephonic or videoconferenced meetings of governmental bodies that are accessible to the public.

These procedures must include a process for members of the public to participate and address the governmental body in those meetings, notice to the public on the means of participating remotely, and access to the public for recordings of those meetings.

For more information, please review the applicable [documentation](#) from the Governor's Office or contact the Office of the Attorney General.

Update Official Websites and Notify Media

Any entities that are exercising this authority to postpone their election date must post notice on the entity's website and should alert any local media organizations regarding this change to their election date.

The entity must also provide notice to their county election officer regarding this change, as the county is required to post the entity's notice of election on the county's website no later than the 60th day before the date of the election under Election Code 4.008. If that election date will be changing due to the entity's decision to postpone the election then the entity must provide a revised notice to the county for posting on the county's website.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please contact the Elections Division at 1-800-252-2216.

KI:CA:CP



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 18, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:00 AM 'CLOCK

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

MAR 18 2020

Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation suspending Sections 41.0052(a) and (b) of the Texas Election Code and Section 49.103 of the Texas Water Code to the extent necessary to allow political subdivisions that would otherwise hold elections on May 2, 2020, to move their general and special elections for 2020 only to the next uniform election date, occurring on November 3, 2020, without otherwise adjusting the term of office, and suspending Sections 31.093 and 42.0621(c) of the Texas Election Code to the extent necessary to require all county election officers, if requested by an affected political subdivision, to enter into a contract to furnish election services with any political subdivision who postponed their election to November 3, 2020, under the authority of this proclamation.

The original of this proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor
GSD/gsd

Attachment

POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 512-463-2000 (VOICE) DIAL 7-1-1 FOR RELAY SERVICES

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, Section 41.001(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code provides that a general or special election in this state shall be held on a uniform election date, and the next uniform election date is occurring on May 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Section 49.103 of the Texas Water Code provides that certain districts governed by this provision are required to hold director elections in May of each even-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, Section 41.0052 of the Texas Election Code prescribes a procedure for a political subdivision to change a general election date, but the time for making such a change has expired; and

WHEREAS, Section 31.093 of the Texas Election Code requires a county elections administrator to enter into a contract to furnish election services upon request of a political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Section 42.0621(c) of the Texas Election Code does not require a political subdivision to enter into a contract with a county or hold a joint election with a county on the November uniform election date; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Texas certified that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster and, under the authority vested in the Governor by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor has the express authority to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of a state agency if strict compliance with the provisions, orders, or rules would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas, do hereby suspend Sections 41.0052(a) and (b) of the Texas Election Code and Section 49.103 of the Texas Water Code to the extent necessary to allow political subdivisions that would otherwise hold elections on May 2, 2020, to move their general and special elections for 2020 only to the next uniform election date, occurring on November 3, 2020, without otherwise adjusting the term of office. I further suspend Sections 31.093 and 42.0621(c) of the Texas Election Code to the extent necessary to require all county election officers, if requested by an affected political subdivision, to enter into a contract to furnish election services with any political subdivision who postponed their election to November 3, 2020, under the authority of this proclamation.

The authority ordering the election under Section 3.004 of the Texas Election Code is the authority authorized to make the decision to postpone its election in accordance with this proclamation.

Current office holders will hold over to the extent authorized by Article XVI, Section 17 of the Texas Constitution.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:00AM O'CLOCK

MAR 18 2020



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have hereto signed my name and
have officially caused the Seal of
State to be affixed at my office in the
City of Austin, Texas, this the 18th
day of March, 2020.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:


RUTH R. HUGHS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:20 AM
MAR 18 2020