

Office of the Mayor
Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor



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**MAYORAL EXECUTIVE ORDER
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
OCTOBER 9, 2020**

**ORDER PERMITTING ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR ALL CITY EMPLOYEES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING CITY EMPLOYEES THE
OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Mississippi, and the City of Jackson are currently responding to an unprecedented outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes named COVID-19; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"); and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. Sec. 1601, *et seq.* and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1320b-5), declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Mississippi declared that a state of emergency exists within the State of Mississippi because of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, I, Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 45-17-1, *et seq.*, of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in the public interest and for the general welfare of the City of Jackson, did declare and issue a civil emergency for the City of Jackson in the wake of the aforementioned pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and flatten the growth curve of cases, authorities, all over the globe, are encouraging and/or requiring citizens to avoid large gatherings and close personal contact; and

WHEREAS, the need to maintain social distancing and to avoid large gatherings of people during the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to make in-person voting in the November 3, 2020 General Election more cumbersome and time-consuming; and

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental constitutional right; and

WHEREAS, constitutional democracy in the United States depends on active citizen involvement in electoral politics; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 General Election scheduled to occur on November 3, 2020 is likely to be the most consequential election in our lifetimes; and thus, turnout is expected to exceed all previous levels; and

WHEREAS, it is my civic duty and moral obligation to ensure that City of Jackson employees have every opportunity and ability to exercise their constitutional right to vote; and


WHEREAS, to mitigate the effects of the unprecedented number of obstacles to voting in this year's General Election due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the expected increase in turnout, it is my civic and moral duty to provide administrative leave to City of Jackson employees for the opportunity of said employees to take time off with pay to vote in this year's November General Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, pursuant to Section 25-11-103(i) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in furtherance of the City of Jackson's long-standing leave policy do hereby authorize, order, and direct as follows:

IT IS ORDERED that six hours of administrative leave be granted to all City of Jackson employees on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for the opportunity to vote in this year's November 3, 2020 General Election.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the employee's department head/supervisor may specify the hours which may be used for voting as provided in this Executive Order.

WITNESS MY HAND, on this the 9 day of October, 2020 at 12:30 am/pm.



CHOKWE A. LUMUMBA, MAYOR
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:



ANGELA HARRIS, MUNICIPAL CLERK