

Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office

Subject:
Extension of Deadline for Withdrawal of
Nomination Petitions

Number:
2018-02


By Direction of: Tom Wolf, Governor

Date: March 21, 2018

WHEREAS, a severe winter weather event struck Pennsylvania on March 21, 2018, with significant amounts of snow accumulation in many counties across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the snowstorm caused the closure of the Commonwealth Capitol Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which includes the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the snowstorm also caused the closure of many county offices, which include the sixty-seven county boards of election, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the General Primary Election is scheduled by law to occur throughout the Commonwealth on Tuesday, May 15, 2018; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of *Section 914* of the *Pennsylvania Election Code* (25 P.S. § 2874), candidates who have filed nomination petitions for the General Primary Election who wish to withdraw must file a withdrawal notice with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or with the appropriate county board of elections, no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on Wednesday, March 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the weather-related closure of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and of the county boards of elections, during the last day on which candidates may file a withdrawal notice by law for the General Primary Election makes it necessary and proper to extend the statutory deadline by which withdrawal notices may be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or where appropriate, with the county boards of elections; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of *Section 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, (35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101 et seq., as amended)* proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency due to the opioid crisis in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of *Section 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, (35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101 et seq., as amended)* amended my January 10, 2018, Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, to include the existence of a disaster emergency in various counties because of a severe weather event; and

WHEREAS, My March 6, 2018, Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the severe weather event is effective for a period of 90 days unless otherwise terminated or extended by my official action.

Now, Therefore, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the *Emergency Management Services Code*, and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby issue this Executive Order as follows:

1. The deadline prescribed by *Section 914 of the Pennsylvania Election Code (25 P.S. § 2874)* by which withdrawal notices filed by candidates for nomination at the General Primary Election must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or where appropriate, with the county boards of elections, shall be extended by one additional day for each business day, or any part thereof, during the week of March 19, 2018, on which the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or the county board of elections, is closed for business as a consequence of weather conditions.
2. No withdrawal deadline may be extended pursuant to this Executive Order beyond 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on Friday, March 23, 2018, unless otherwise extended by a superseding Executive Order.
3. The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall post this Executive Order in the Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation and in all other appropriate places, and shall communicate its contents to the county boards of election, and shall take all necessary action to provide notice of this Executive Order to the general public.
4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect only until 5:00 p.m. prevailing time, Monday, March 26, 2018.