

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-69

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Local Government Public Meetings)

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued the “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Ashley Moody seeking an advisory opinion regarding concerns raised by local government bodies about their ability to hold meetings through teleconferencing and other technological means in order to protect the public and follow the CDC guidance regarding social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Attorney General Ashley Moody delivered an opinion to me indicating that certain provisions of Florida law require a physical quorum be present for local government bodies to conduct official business, and that local government bodies may only conduct meetings by teleconferencing or other technological means if either a statute permits a quorum to be present by means other than in person, or that the in person requirement for constituting a quorum is lawfully suspended during the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that residents and visitors in Florida remain safe and secure;

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, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet at a specific public place.

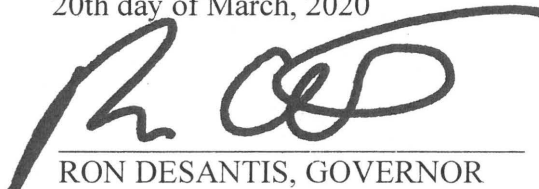
Section 2. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

Section 3. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and "Florida's Government in the Sunshine Laws," including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall expire at the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extension.



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 20th day of March, 2020


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 MAR 20 AM 9:38
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-179

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Local Government Public Meetings)

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Order 20-112, Executive Order 20-123, Executive Order 20-139 and Executive Order 20-150, expires on August 1, 2020, unless extended; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-69 requires amendment to address foreseeable Truth in Millage (“TRIM”), non ad valorem assessment, and value adjustment board related issues.

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, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1.

Executive Order 20-69 is amended to include Section 5, as follows:

A. For any taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem assessment, including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum or supermajority of the membership to be present in person or requires the local government body to meet at a specific public place.

B. A taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem

assessment including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

C. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws,” including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

D. The provisions set forth in this section shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on October 15, 2020.

Section 2.

Executive Order 20-69 is amended to include Section 6, as follows:

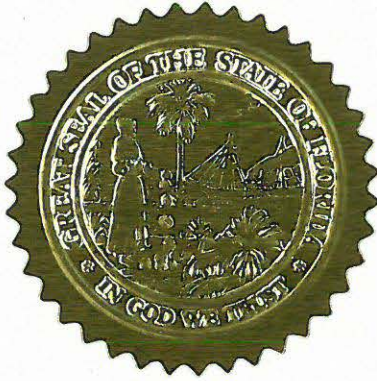
A. For any value adjustment board including, but not limited to, special magistrates, holding a hearing or meeting under Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, I hereby suspend any Florida Statute or rule that requires a quorum or individual to be present in person or requires the local government body or individual to meet at a specific public place.

B. A value adjustment board including, but not limited to, special magistrates, holding a hearing or meeting under Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

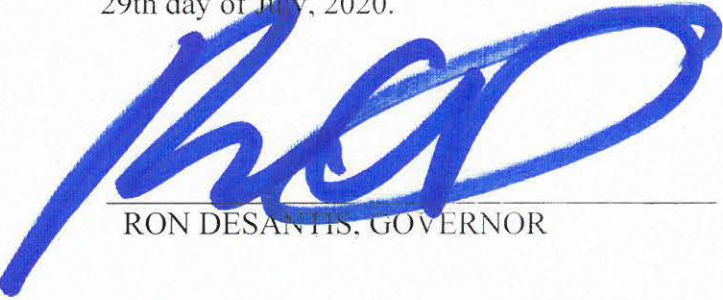
C. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws,” including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

D. The provisions set forth in this section shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on December 15, 2020.

Section 3. Except as amended herein, I hereby extend Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123, 20-139 and 20-150, until 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2020.



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 29th day of July, 2020.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2020 JUL 29 AM 11:46
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-193

(Amending Executive Order 20-179)

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-69, as amended by Executive Order 20-179, requires amendment to provide local government bodies with additional time to notice their meetings.

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, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1.

Section 3. of Executive Order 20-179 is amended to read, as follows:

Except as amended herein, I hereby extend Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123, 20-139 and 20-150, until 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2020.



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 7th day of August, 2020.


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2020 AUG - 7 PM 4:32

FILED