WPC 90-10

RELATING TO ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION IN THE VOTING PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State of Texas has been contacted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of informing the State that the Presidential Designee under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 United States Code, 1973ff, has authorized electronic transmissions of election related materials including absentee ballots; and,

WHEREAS, the Presidential Designee recognizes emergency conditions related to Operation Desert Shield; and,

WHEREAS, this authorization is for the limited period of the November 6, 1990 General Election; and,

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has consulted with the State Chairmen of the Democratic and Republican Parties and has received their endorsement of this attempt to provide access to the ballot for the men and women participating in this operation; and,

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has attempted to consult with the State Chairman of the Libertarian Party;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me by Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as amended and codified at Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, do hereby certify that recent events in the Middle East, which have required the immediate assignment of thousands of American military personnel who reside in Texas to a military operation known as Desert Shield, constitute a statewide disaster, for the reason that these men and women may be injured by a deprivation of their constitutional right to vote in the November 6, 1990 General Election.

I proclaim the existence of such disaster and direct that all necessary measures be implemented to meet that disaster including the use of electronic transmission in the voting process. As provided in the Texas Government Code, §418.016 all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this disaster are suspended for the duration of the incident.

The Secretary of State is hereby directed to notify the appropriate county officials and to prescribe such rules, regulations or directives as necessary to protect the integrity of the military ballot while providing for the systematic and orderly transmission of the ballots in order to be received for the General Election.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of thirty (30) days.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on October 23, 1990

TRD-9011881        William P. Clements, Jr.
                     Governor of Texas

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