

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Announces Voter Deadline Extension for Military

(Jackson, MS) –Today, Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced he has directed Secretary of State Eric Clark to extend the deadline for voter registration and absentee voting for the men and women from Mississippi who are serving in the armed forces.

“The men and women of the US Armed Forces have volunteered to fight to protect our democracy,” said Musgrove. “At the foundation of that democracy is the right to vote. It is imperative that we do all in our power to ensure that this right is protected for them.”

There are 4,700 men and women from the Mississippi National Guard and the US Armed Forces Reserves deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

“Enabling our soldiers who are serving overseas to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections will help preserve the foundation of our democracy,” said Maj. Gen. James H. Lipscomb III, the adjutant general of Mississippi. “This protect their right to vote, and I know many of them will gladly exercise that right.”

In 2000, Musgrove signed into law H.B. 765, the Mississippi Military Voting Law, as recommended by Secretary of State Eric Clark. Now, active duty Mississippi Military personnel serving out of the state or out of the country, including National Guard and Reserve personnel called to active duty, have an additional 16 days to register to vote. This law also allows for absentee ballots to be counted as long as they are received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

For more information contact David Blount with the Office of the Secretary of State at (601) 359-1350.

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