

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2018 027

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### Activating the National Guard for the Purpose of Ensuring Election Security

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order activating six members of the Colorado National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element for the purposes of assisting with election cybersecurity efforts during the 2018 election.

#### I. Background and Purpose

Like many other states, Colorado utilizes online voter registration systems which allow eligible citizens to easily access and update voter registration information. These systems are protected by various security features aimed at maintaining confidentiality and preventing tampering or interference with data.

Despite utilizing various security features, online voter registration systems could provide an avenue for cyber actors to gain unlawful access into voter registration databases. Outside of Colorado, voter registration databases have been compromised in the past by cyber actors hacking into various systems. Though cyber actors are unable to modify voter records, these breaches could result in the release of voters' personally identifiable information. The exposure of voters' personally identifiable information does not threaten the integrity of our state's election system, but could undermine public confidence in the system. The Colorado National Guard has unique cyber capabilities to assist in protecting critical election infrastructure.

The Colorado Secretary of State has requested that the Colorado National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element provide election cybersecurity support during the 2018 election. By activating six members of the National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element, the National Guard can provide support to the Secretary of State up to and including the November 2018 election.

#### II. Declarations and Directives

On August 9, 2018, the Colorado Secretary of State requested the assistance of the Colorado National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element. The Governor may employ the National Guard for the defense of the state. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I hereby activate six members of the Colorado National Guard Defensive Cyber Operations Element to assist with election cybersecurity efforts during the 2018 election.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from September 19, 2018, unless extended by further Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this nineteenth day of  
September, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", written over a horizontal line.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor