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**CANDIDATE FOR THE  
2020 Special Primary Election for the  
7<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annapolis, Maryland (October 29, 2019) – On October 28, 2019, Governor Larry Hogan issued a proclamation to hold a special primary election on February 4, 2020 and a special general election on April 28, 2020 for Maryland's 7th Congressional District. The special election is required to fill the U.S. House of Representatives seat that is vacant due to the passing of the Honorable Elijah Cummings.

The candidate filing period for the special primary election for this congressional district begins at 9 am on Wednesday October 30, 2019 and ends at 5 pm on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. To become a candidate for the special primary election, an individual must appear in person at the State Board of Elections (SBE), complete the required paperwork (*Certificate of Candidacy*), and pay the \$100.00 filing fee not later than 5 pm on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. SBE is located at 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis MD.

A candidate may withdraw from appearing on the special primary election ballot until 5 pm on Friday, November 22, 2019. A candidate who wishes to withdraw as a candidate must complete the required form, get the form notarized, and submit to SBE the notarized form no later than Friday, November 22, 2019. The withdrawal form is available online or at SBE's offices. SBE can notarize the form.

Filing a *Certificate of Candidacy* for the special election does **not** mean the individual is also a candidate for the regularly scheduled primary election in April 2020. To be a candidate for the regularly scheduled primary election, an individual must file a *Certificate of Candidacy* by Friday, January 24, 2020 and submit a \$100 filing fee specifically for the regularly scheduled primary election. To serve a full two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives, an individual must be on the ballot for the regularly scheduled general election on November 3, 2020. If the winner of the special general election for the 7th Congressional District wishes to serve a full two-year term, he or she must be a candidate for the regularly scheduled elections in 2020.

Candidates affiliated with other political parties and petition candidates have a different deadline to file a *Certificate of Candidacy* to be candidates for the 7th Congressional District on the special general election ballot. The filing deadline for these individuals to be candidates for the special general election is February 4, 2020.

Since federal law requires election officials to start transmitting absentee ballots to military and overseas voters at least 45 days before an election, the candidate filing dates for the special election were set to provide adequate time for the ballots to be printed and transmitted to these voters.

The special primary election for the 7th Congressional District will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, and the special general election for the 7th Congressional District will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

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