WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has had a far-reaching effect on the 2020 election, including requiring closures of some historic polling places, and causing some experienced poll workers to stay home instead of serving at the polls this year due to health concerns; and

WHEREAS, Due to the challenging changes, election administrators and poll workers, including many with experience and many stepping up for the first time, are playing a critical role in helping voters safely and securely access their ballots; and

WHEREAS, To conduct an accessible and secure election requires the work of the State Board of Elections, their staff, local board of elections and their permanent staff, and thousands of poll workers in every neighborhood and community in our state; and

WHEREAS, This year’s election has called for extraordinary commitment, long hours and creativity by election administration, to educate the public, and to successfully recruit and train additional poll workers; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to these heroic efforts and service, record numbers of voters are likely to participate in the 2020 general election; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is proud to recognize the heroic efforts made by election administration and poll workers, and urges voters, businesses, organizations, public officials, and all candidates for public office across our state to join in celebrating and thanking these individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim NOVEMBER 2, 2020 as ELECTION HERO DAY in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.