WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace Ward 2, Parish of Ouachita, due to the death of Tommy Brunt on December 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 18:621 authorizes the Governor to call a special election to fill the vacancy in an office when more than twelve (12) months of the term remain unexpired, in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:621 and/or the dates for elections set forth in La. R.S. 18:402.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: A special primary and general election shall be held throughout the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Ward 2, Parish of Ouachita, for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy in the office.

SECTION 2: Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied either by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form, and under the procedures and conditions, provided by La. R.S. 18:461 et seq., and all other applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq., during the period commencing Wednesday, July 12, 2017, and ending at 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 14, 2017.

SECTION 3: The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq.

SECTION 4: The primary election shall be held Saturday, October 14, 2017, and the general election shall be held Saturday, November 18, 2017, at the times and places and in the manner, prescribed by law.

SECTION 5: The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Ward 2, Parish of Ouachita, are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 20th day of January, 2017.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE