

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-18
(EXTENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-13)
HURRICANE HELENE**

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, Leon County, Florida, issued Proclamation No. 2024-13, declaring a Local State of Emergency exists in Leon County requiring immediate and expeditious action to safeguard lives and property; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Cyclone Nine became Tropical Storm Helene on September 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., declared that an emergency existed in the State of Florida and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from the storm beginning on September 23, 2024, and continuing; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Helene became a hurricane over the Gulf of Mexico on September 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene rapidly intensified into a Category 4 hurricane and made landfall at approximately 11:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, September 26, 2024, in Florida's Big Bend region; and

WHEREAS, the storm brought life-threatening storm surge, damaging winds and widespread flooding, particularly impacting coastal communities in the Big Bend area, while also affecting inland regions through the southeast with high winds and significant rainfall; and

WHEREAS, prior to landfall, Leon County issued Proclamation No. 2024-14 to amend Proclamation No. 2024-13 and order a mandatory evacuation of mobile and manufactured homes in advance of Hurricane Helene's landfall; and

WHEREAS, prior to landfall, Leon County opened eight risk shelters to protect citizens from hurricane-force winds and other storm impacts; and

WHEREAS, the storm has caused widespread power outages, flooding, and infrastructure damage, impacting millions of residents across Florida, including residents in Leon County; and

WHEREAS, the storm has caused the deaths of more than 250 people across the southeast; and

WHEREAS, in Leon County prompt and efficient precautions were required to safeguard lives and property due to the ongoing threats from flooding, downed power lines, and debris; and

WHEREAS, Leon County performed preliminary damage assessments with the Florida Emergency Management Agency and evaluated other emergency actions and operations; and

WHEREAS, Leon County and the State of Florida opened five points of distribution across Leon County to assist with disaster recovery, including to provide commodities such as bottled water, shelf-stable meals, and tarps; and

WHEREAS, Leon County began vegetative debris collection and disposal operations on Saturday, October 7, 2024, to protect the health and safety of all Leon County residents; and

WHEREAS, Leon County vegetative debris collection and disposal operations remain ongoing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, has adopted the Emergency Management Ordinance, codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida (the "Ordinance"), providing authorization for the Board or its designee to declare a Local State of Emergency in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, or the imminent threat thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the Ordinance, as Chair of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, and pursuant to Section 2-307 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, after consultation with state and local authorities, I declare that a Local State of Emergency continues to exist in Leon County, Florida, due to the significant impacts of Hurricane Helene and associated ongoing recovery efforts, and I order as follows:

1. Local State of Emergency. Proclamation No. 2024-13, previously amended by Proclamation No. 2024-14, Proclamation No. 2024-15, Proclamation No. 2024-16, and Proclamation No. 2024-17, is hereby extended and remains in full force and effect.

2. Effective Date and Time. This Proclamation extending Proclamation No. 2024-13 will continue for a period of seven days in accordance with section 2-330(b), Leon County Code, unless rescinded or extended.

3. Filing with Clerk. This Local Emergency Proclamation shall be filed with the Office of the Clerk within three days after issuance.

4. Local Emergency Proclamation on Dedicated Webpage. This Local Emergency Proclamation shall be made available on a dedicated webpage accessible through a conspicuous link on the County's homepage.

5. Link to Division of Emergency Management. A link to this Local Emergency Proclamation on the County's dedicated webpage shall be provided to the Division of Emergency Management within the Executive Office of the Governor.

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THIS LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION authorizes the activation of the Leon County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the exercise of all powers provided by Chapter 252, F.S., and Chapter 2, Article VIII, Leon County Code.

Dated this 21st day of October, 2024.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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By: Carolyn D. Cummings
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Carolyn D. Cummings, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwendolyn Marshall Knight, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

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By: Gwendolyn Marshall Knight
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Signed by:


APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

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By: Chasity H. O'Steen
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