

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-14
(AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-13)
TROPICAL STORM 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, as anticipated Tropical Cyclone Nine became Tropical Storm Helene on September 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Tropical Storm Helene will become a hurricane over the eastern Gulf of Mexico on September 25, 2024; and

WHEREAS, computer forecast models indicate a likely possibility of significant to rapid intensification of this system, forming a major hurricane before it approaches the northeastern Gulf Coast on September 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the forecast indicates that this system will become large and powerful before landfall, and there is a significant threat of life-threatening storm surge and damaging gusts for the Florida Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, due to the system's size, the accompanying storm surge, wind, and rainfall impacts of the storm will extend well away from its center, and the faster forward approach of the system will likely result in farther inland penetration of strong winds even after landfall; and

WHEREAS, there is a Hurricane Warning currently in effect in Leon County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 24-209, amending Executive Order No. 24-208 to include an additional twenty counties; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has expressed that the situation may evolve quickly once a center forms, and residents should prepare now for a hurricane and significant impacts; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Leon County the threat of a natural emergency from this system; and

WHEREAS, prompt and efficient precautions are required to safeguard lives and property that may be affected by this system; 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 that projected weather conditions within Leon County and neighboring coastal counties require immediate and expeditious action as a result of Tropical Storm Helene, I order as follows:

1. Mandatory Evacuation. Residents of mobile and manufactured homes within Leon County are required to evacuate from such housing by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

2. Shelter Locations. Leon County Schools, in coordination with County Emergency Management, will open the following emergency shelters in Leon County at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024:

- Chiles High School, 7200 Lawton Chiles Lane (pet accessible);
- Fairview Middle School, 3415 Zillah Street (pet accessible);
- Fort Braden School, 15100 Blountstown Highway (pet accessible);
- Godby High School, 1717 W. Tharpe Street (pet accessible);
- Leon High School, 550 E. Tennessee Street (pet accessible);
- Lincoln High School, 3838 Trojan Trail (pet accessible); and
- SAIL High School, 2006 Jackson Bluff Road (pet accessible).

For residents evacuating homes:

- Residents with pets utilizing a shelter need to bring a crate for their pets.
- Lock all doors and windows and put on shutters if necessary.
- Turn off all appliances, faucets, and LP gas tanks.
- Bring a 3-5 day supply of personal hygiene, water, and food items with you in case debris or power outages at your home prevent your return.

Residents seeking evacuation shelters and other emergency information during this local State of Emergency can find more information online at www.LeonCountyFl.gov/ei or by calling (850) 606-3700.

3. Effective Date and Time. This Local State of Emergency shall take effect at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, and shall expire upon the expiration of Proclamation No. 2024-13.

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

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 24th day of September, 2024.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

DocuSigned by:

Carolyn D. Cummings

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By: _____

Carolyn D. Cummings, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:

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

DocuSigned by:

Gwendolyn Marshall Knight

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By: _____

Signed by:



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

DocuSigned by:

Chasity H. O'Steen

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By: _____