



## DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, a strong storm front brought flooding rains, winds, and a confirmed tornado last night ahead of Hurricane Helene has making landfall on the Gulf Coast of Florida which will bring significant wind and rain to Watauga County amplifying flooding and critical infrastructure impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Watauga County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Watauga County Code of Ordinances:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within Watauga County as more particularly described in Section 2.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be (*check box*):

All areas within the jurisdiction of Watauga County

The following specific areas within the jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3.** The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed (*check all that apply*):

**Evacuation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Curfew:** A curfew is in place from 11pm to 7am until further notice. The only exception is for response operations and critical personnel.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Restricted Access:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Business Operations:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Alcohol:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Dangerous Weapons & Gasoline** (*Except for lawfully possessed firearms (handgun, rifle, or shotgun) and ammunition*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

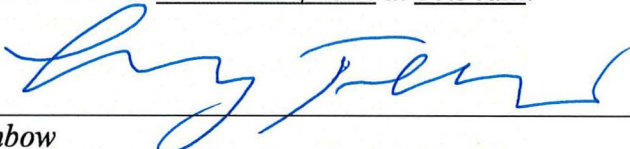
**No Restrictions imposed at this Time**

**Section 4.** I hereby order all Watauga County Sheriff's Office law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Watauga County Emergency Operations Plan.

**Section 5.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the County Commissioners; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 6.** This declaration shall take effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 10:30am and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

**DECLARED** this the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 10:30am.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Turnbow  
Chairman, Watauga County Commissioners