



MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, beginning on September 9, 2026, multiple rounds of storms and heavy precipitation moved through and continue to move through the State of Ohio. The unrelenting rain is compounding the impacts from previous severe storms and heavy rainfall, making recovery efforts more demanding and challenging, and creating new damages and impacts to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio and all those traveling through and to the state; and

WHEREAS, as of the signing of this proclamation, additional widespread showers are anticipated to move through the state, and flood warnings and flood watches remain in effect for 12 counties; and

WHEREAS, geographically these storms are impacting all areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, over the last fourteen (14) days water rescues were necessary in Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Meigs, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, and Vinton counties. Gallia county alone had more than thirty (30) water rescues, and the City of Waverly lost a rescue boat to flood waters; and

WHEREAS, flash flooding and flooding have closed roads and impacted travel and damaged homes in Athens, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Morgan, Pickaway, Pike, VanWert, and Vinton counties; and

WHEREAS, flooding has required the evacuation of houses, apartments, campers, and campgrounds. Shelters are open in various counties including Gallia, Greene, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Ross, and Vinton counties; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing rain has made it difficult to fully assess damage, but reported damage to public structures includes an animal shelter in Jackson County as well as damage to the sheriff's office, jail, the prosecutor's office and the Morgan County fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Morgan, Ross, and Vinton counties, and the Village of McConnelsville have all made local emergency declarations, and the Vinton County Sheriff issued a level 3 emergency for flooding; and

WHEREAS, there is one confirmed tornado in Guernsey County; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and its regional representatives have been and continue to engage with Ohio's counties to assess needs and provide assistance as needed; and

WHEREAS, many of the impacted areas are currently under a state emergency declaration as a result of impacts from several rounds of severe storms and rain that moved through the state over a two-week period in August of 2026; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2026, I requested a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for twenty-three (23) counties because the August storms resulted in a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capability of the state. Many of the counties included in this declaration request are again suffering the consequences of this new round of heavy precipitation and storms; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that Athens, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Van Wert, and Vinton counties and potentially other counties will require assistance from the state to evaluate impacts and alleviate the threat of harm to person's and property; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Ohio to assist State and local authorities by having all State departments and agencies be at the ready and prepared to utilize their personnel and resources as necessary to protect the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Athens, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Van Wert, and Vinton counties, other impacted counties once those counties are designated, and all those traveling to or through the State; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has determined that the extreme precipitation and flooding from this storm may reasonably impact the life, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Athens, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Van Wert, and Vinton counties and other impacted counties once those counties are designated; and

WHEREAS, it is foreseeable that a reasonable possibility exists that available local resources will be exhausted, and ongoing services will be necessary from State departments and agencies to assist in alleviating the consequences of this storm; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ohio Constitution Article III Section 5 "[t]he supreme executive power of this state shall be vested in the governor" and pursuant to Section 6 the Governor "...shall see that the laws are faithfully executed"; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code sections 5502.22 and 5502.28, this proclamation is necessary to authorize previously alerted State departments and agencies to prepare and respond as needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, on September 22, 2026, I Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, specifically the implied police powers of the Tenth Amendment, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, Article III, Section 5, and the laws of this State declare that due to the damage and dangerous conditions resulting from severe storms and wind, a state of emergency exists for Athens, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Van Wert, and Vinton counties. I hereby direct all State departments and agencies to as

necessary and appropriate and within reason lend their services, equipment, supplies, and personnel to assist in the response and recovery effort from these events.

FURTHER, this is an ongoing event, and I may amend this declaration to include additional counties as state and local officials work to assess impacts, respond, and recover.

FURTHER, I direct the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate the State and any needed federal response and to assist as necessary and appropriate in protecting the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio.

FURTHER, I hereby direct the Department of Administrative Services and other departments and agencies of the State to suspend purchasing and contracting requirements contained in Chapters 125 and 153 of the Revised Code, pursuant to Section 125.061 of the Revised Code, during the period of the emergency for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and any other State agency participating in emergency assistance under this declaration, in order to procure any necessary resources or supplies to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the above listed counties and any other counties that subsequently declare a state of emergency due to the above described event.

FURTHER, this Proclamation does not require the implementation of the Department of Administrative Services Directive HR-D-11 or the Department of Administrative Services' "Weather (Public Safety) Procedure." Accordingly, state employees' obligation to travel to and from work is not to be limited as a result of this proclamation.

FURTHER, this Proclamation shall take effect immediately. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 107.42, it shall remain in full force and effect for ninety days from the date of this order, unless otherwise extended by division of (C) of Revised Code section 107.42 or terminated by me or my designee earlier.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto subscribed my name at Columbus,
Ohio, on this 22nd day of September, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Dewine". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

MIKE DEWINE
Governor