

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-036**  
**(Declared Local State Of Emergency)**

**WHEREAS**, the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners has met and considered the substantial emergency condition which may be caused by Tropical Storm Helene, and that it is projected to become at least a category one hurricane; **and**

**WHEREAS**, there may be injury to the population, and damage to property of citizens of Gadsden County; **and**

**WHEREAS**, on September 23, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-208, declaring a state of emergency in multiple Florida counties, including Gadsden County.

**WHEREAS**, in response to these potential severe weather impacts of Tropical Storm Helene, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners met on September 24, 2024, and approved this Resolution, declaring a “**Local State of Emergency**” within the County; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to section 252.38, Florida Statutes, the County has jurisdictional authority over the entire county for emergency management purposes; **and**

**WHEREAS**, section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, limits the duration of local states of emergency to 7 days, therefore:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DECLARED** as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gadsden County, Florida is hereby declared to be in a Local State of Emergency, as provided herein.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that due to the rapid escalation of this situation, and the requirement for rapid action, the Board of County Commissioners took action to adopt this Resolution without notice being published in local newspapers.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners hereby exercises its authority and waives the procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision as provided by section 252.38, Florida Statutes; **and**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the County shall have the power and authority to carry on those activities set forth in section 252.38, Florida Statutes, including but not limited to: appropriate and expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victim of any emergency; and direct and coordinate the development of the emergency management plans and protocols in accordance with the plans and policies set forth by the Federal and State Emergency Management agencies; and to appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or

without compensation, coordinators, rescue teams, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the County shall have the power to establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government and direction and control of emergency operations; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the County shall have the power to assign and make available for duty the offices and agencies of Gadsden County, including the employees, the property or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services for emergency operation services, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the County shall have the power to request State assistance or invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance by declaring a Local State of Emergency in the event of an emergency affecting only one political subdivision.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the duration of this State of Emergency declared locally is limited to seven (7) days from the date of this Resolution; this Resolution may be extended as necessary, in seven-day increments.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, pursuant to Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2, Section 2-42(f) of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, the County may call emergency meetings which bypass the notice conditions required by the Code. Such emergency meetings shall not be required to be held at the normal meeting times as set forth in the Code; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that while the Local State of Emergency continues to exist, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners hereby empowers the Chairman, or in his absence or unavailability, the Vice-Chairwoman, of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (or their designated representative) with the following powers:

To appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, rescue teams, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers; and

To establish, as necessary, a primary and one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government and direction and control of emergency operations; and

To assign and make available for duty the offices and agencies of Gadsden County, including the employees, the property or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services for emergency operation services, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision; and

To request State assistance or invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance by declaring a local State of Emergency in the event of an emergency affecting only one political subdivision. The duration of this State of Emergency declared locally is limited to **seven (7) days**; it may be extended (or terminated) as necessary by the Chairman or Vice-Chairwoman of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (or his/her designee), in seven-day increments, without further affirmative action from the Board; and

To take any additional action he (or his designee) deems necessary effectuate and promote the continued health and safety of the County while this state of emergency is in effect.

#### **EXPIRATION**

This Resolution shall expire as set forth hereinabove, except that if such State of Emergency is extended, this order shall also be deemed to extend for the duration of such extension. This order may be cancelled earlier by action of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners.

By Special Order of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners on this **24** day of **September** 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alonzetta Simpkins  
Vice-Chairwoman**

**ATTEST:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nicholas Thomas  
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

