

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, beginning on July 21, 2026, a series of storm systems began moving across West Virginia, and in response, that afternoon, I declared a State of Preparedness for all fifty-five counties of this State; and

WHEREAS, by the evening of July 21, 2026, the storm had produced severe thunderstorms, damaging winds, torrential rainfall, flash flooding, and landslides; and

WHEREAS, the severe storms particularly impacted portions of north central West Virginia, including Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties, resulting in significant damage to homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and essential services; and

WHEREAS, rapid rainfall overwhelmed streams, creeks, drainage systems, and transportation infrastructure, causing flooding, road closures, and hazardous conditions throughout the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, that same night, I declared a State of Emergency in all fifty-five counties to provide the necessary flexibility to rapidly coordinate, mobilize, and deploy resources where needed, ensuring the State was prepared to support communities affected by current and potential storm-related impacts; and

WHEREAS, the declaration issued on July 21, 2026, is currently set to expire August 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the storms continue to pose a severe and continuing threat to the health, safety, welfare, and property of Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties; and

WHEREAS, the officials of a number of these counties have reported that many residents, homes, businesses and critical services continue to be affected by the July 21, 2026, storms; and

WHEREAS, the officials of a number of these counties have asked that I extend the current State of Emergency by an additional thirty days; and

WHEREAS, in those counties, substantial work has been conducted to restore essential services and mitigate the effects of the July 21, 2026, storms, but emergency operations are ongoing and extended assistance and flexibility is needed to remove debris, restore affected areas, and assist displaced residents; and

WHEREAS, the impacts and damages of the storm systems in these counties continue to be assessed by local and state officials—in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b) authorizes an extension of the existing State of Emergency for Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties in this circumstance; and

WHEREAS, extending the State of Emergency will help local, state, and federal personnel coordinate resources, equipment, and manpower towards relief operations and ultimately help the people of those counties recover from the storm and flood damage; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with my authority as Governor, it has been deemed necessary and beneficial to extend the existing State of Emergency, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b), for Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and in view of the foregoing, do hereby **FIND AND DECLARE** that a State of Emergency exists and continues in Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties, and that said State of Emergency is to remain in effect until Saturday, September 19, 2026, unless terminated by subsequent Proclamation. The existing State of Emergency for the remaining counties of the State shall expire, pursuant to the July 21, 2026, declaration on August 20, 2026. In response to this State of Emergency, I have **INVOKED** the emergency powers set forth in West Virginia Code § 15-5-6; **UTILIZED** the Emergency Operations Plan, as necessary; **ORDERED** appropriate personnel and resources to prepare to mobilize and respond to any emergency that may develop; and **DELEGATED** certain administrative powers to the Director of the West Virginia Emergency Management Division, as necessary, to facilitate the provision of essential emergency services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of
Charleston, State of West Virginia, this



By the State

Thirteenth Day of August, in the Year of our
Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, in the One
Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.

Patrick Morisy
GOVERNOR

Kris Warner
SECRETARY OF STATE