

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 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, covering all fifty-five counties was set to expire August 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2026, I extended the State of Emergency for Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pendleton, Pleasants, Randolph, Ritchie, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel Counties for an additional thirty days due to the ongoing effects of the July 21, 2026, storms in those counties; and

WHEREAS, from August 16 through August 18, 2026, a new series of slow-moving storm complexes moved across West Virginia, dumping excessive rainfall and bringing severe wind gusts to numerous communities; and

WHEREAS, several localized areas received near-record rainfall in a matter of hours, unleashing rapid flash floods, mudslides, and widespread water rescues across multiple counties; and

WHEREAS, this new storm system resulted in significant damage to homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and essential services; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b) authorizes the declaration of a new State of Emergency in all fifty-five counties related to the August 16 through August 18, 2026, storms; and

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with my authority as Governor, it has been deemed necessary and beneficial to declare a State of Emergency, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b), for all fifty-five counties in West Virginia.

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 all fifty-five counties and that said State of Emergency is to remain in effect for thirty days unless terminated by subsequent Proclamation. 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 Eighteenth Day of August, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.



Patrick Morissey
GOVERNOR

By the State

Kris Warner
SECRETARY OF STATE