

EMERGENCY ORDER 2024-06
DECLARATION OF STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY
TROPICAL STORM HELENE

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County has been informed by its emergency management staff that the National Weather Service has stated that the National Weather Service is currently tracking Tropical Storm Helene which has the potential to threaten, or through its effects, impact Alachua County; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order number 24-208 authorizing certain political subdivisions in the State of Florida, including Alachua County, to waive certain procedures and formalities required of political subdivisions; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order number 24-208 also finds that due to the effects of Tropical Storm Helene the water tables and riverine levels across North Florida remain above normal and the additional incoming heavy rainfall will likely cause significant riverine flooding for an extended period of time, and

WHEREAS, based upon these and other findings, Governor Ron DeSantis has declared a state of emergency across several counties in Florida including Alachua County and has authorized the political subdivisions to undertake those powers authorized under Sec. 252.38(2), Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, weather effects from Tropical Storm Helene could reach Alachua County as early as Wednesday, September 25th. The storm is likely to develop into a hurricane. It is predicted that associated weather could result in strong winds across Alachua County. This storm has the potential to cause widespread damage across Alachua County to government and personal property, impact the roadways, disrupt utilities and County operations, cause flooding, therefore this event has the capacity to pose a significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of Alachua County, Florida, including visitors and tourists, as well as their real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Helene meets the definition of weather event in Sec. 252.38 (4) Fla. Stat. and its impact on the authority of political subdivisions on enacting emergency orders in response to a weather event; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has been called into emergency session to consider the matters set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair as the Official Authority hereby resolves, finds, and declares:

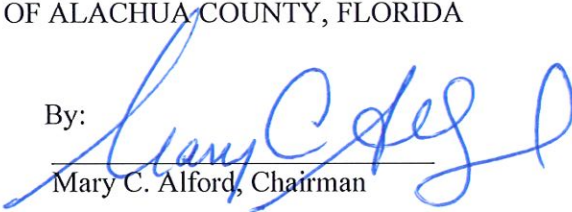
1. The above recitals are true.
2. A state of general emergency hereby exists in Alachua County, Florida, effective for seven (7) days beginning at 12:00 p.m., eastern daylight time, on this 24th day of September, 2024.
3. The procedures and formalities otherwise required of Alachua County pertaining to the following are waived:
 - a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
 - b. Entering into contracts.
 - c. Incurring obligations.
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
 - f. Rental of equipment.
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

4. The County Manager, or her designee is hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to exercise, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, such emergency powers necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, including, but not limited to, the powers to declaring curfews or limiting assembly in any part of the County as necessary upon proper findings in order to reduce the vulnerability of people in communities of Alachua County to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from the imminent threat, as well as any other powers expressly or implicitly conferred pursuant to Chapters 125 and 252, Florida Statutes, including all emergency declarations of the Governor and any other provision of law or county ordinance.
5. Authority granted by this Order shall extend for the period of the state of general emergency, until it expires or is revoked.

Issued this 24th day of September 2024, at 11:37 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:


Mary C. Alford, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:


Jesse K. Irby, Esquire, II

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved as to Form



Office of County Attorney