

DECLARATION EXTENDING STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY 24-01

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2024, the County Manager issued State of Local Emergency 24-01 due to the anticipated impact of Hurricane Milton; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Hurricane Milton resulted in substantial harm to the population of Polk County and substantial damage to property; and

WHEREAS, conditions continue to exist requiring the extension of Declaration of State of Local of Emergency 24-01.

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 AND §252.38(3)(a), FLORIDA STATUTES, THE STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARED ON OCTOBER 7, 2024, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF POLK COUNTY AND ENCOMPASSING THE EMERGENCY IDENTIFIED AS **HURRICANE MILTON** IS HEREBY EXTENDED.

ACCORDINGLY, THE COUNTY MAY EVOKE ALL OF THE POWERS AS OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 252 FLORIDA STATUTES, POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.

FURTHERMORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 AND OTHER APPLICABLE COUNTY ORDINANCES AND STATE LAWS, THE COUNTY MANAGER OF POLK COUNTY AND HIS DESIGNEE(S) ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO, INTER ALIA, TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Utilize all available resources of the county government as reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency.
2. Make provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing and the emergency warehousing of materials.
3. Acquire merchandise, equipment, vehicles or property needed to alleviate the emergency.
4. Authorize County employees or private companies on behalf of Polk County to enter onto private property and roadways including, without limitation, private roads or access, to remove debris generated by the emergency conditions from areas affected by the emergency in order to eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, and safety; eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved property; or ensure economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large. Debris includes, without limitation, fallen trees and limbs, leaves, plants, bushes, garbage, rubbish, solid waste and other similar items. As used in this Section 4, immediate threats to life, public health, and safety include, without limitation, situations in which solid waste impedes access for emergency vehicles, impede restoration of utilities, or may be hazardous to health in that it promotes the growth of diseases, attract vectors or increase the chance of accidents.

FURTHER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.38, FLORIDA STATUTES AND POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074, THE COUNTY HEREBY WAIVES THE PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES OTHERWISE REQUIRED OF THE COUNTY BY LAW PERTAINING TO:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
2. Entering into contracts.
3. Incurring obligations.
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
5. Utilization of volunteer workers.
6. Rental of equipment.
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

PURSUANT TO POLK COUNTY ORDINANCE 19-074 THIS EXTENSION OF THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY SHALL EXPIRE WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS UNLESS EXTENDED, AS NECESSARY, IN 7-DAY INCREMENTS.

DATED this 31st day of January 2025.

ATTEST:

STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CLERK

By: *Stacy M. Butterfield*
Deputy Clerk

POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: *William Beasley*
William Beasley, County Manager

