

## **DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS** a winter storm is predicted to strike North Carolina beginning January 24, 2026, and to cause significant amounts of snow and frozen precipitation throughout Forsyth County and across North Carolina, rendering roads dangerous and causing the possibility of downed trees and power lines;

**WHEREAS** on January 21, 2026, Josh Stein declared a state of emergency across North Carolina due to the impending storm;

**WHEREAS** as a result of the above-described disaster, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities may be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

**WHEREAS** declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Section 9-21 of the Forsyth County Code of Ordinances:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Forsyth County.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County.

**Section 3.** I hereby order all Forsyth County law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Forsyth County Emergency Operations Plan. During the duration of the state of emergency, the Forsyth County Manager shall have the authority to operate, or to enter into agreements for the operation of, emergency shelters in County buildings as determined to be necessary and feasible by the County Manager.

**Section 4.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 5.** This declaration shall take effect on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 1:00 pm and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

**DECLARED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

Signed by:

*Don Martin*

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Chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

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*Ashleigh B Matthews*

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Forsyth County Clerk to the Board

Signed by:

