



DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch for North Georgia, including Gwinnett County, beginning Saturday afternoon, January 24, 2026, through Monday, January 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Winter Storm Watch may be upgraded to either a Winter Storm Warning or an Ice Storm Warning later this evening or tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2026, the Governor of the State of Georgia issued an Executive Order declaring that due to the projected impact of this major winter storm a State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia for a period of seven (7) days, expiring Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 11:59 P.M., unless renewed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, by issuing this Executive Order, the Governor has made available all resources of the State of Georgia to assist in preparation, response, and recovery activities associated with the winter storm throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 38-3-28 of the Official Code of Georgia, political subdivisions are authorized and empowered to make such orders as may be necessary for emergency management purposes so long as such order are consistent with those of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 34-21(a) of the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County, the Chair of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has the ability to issue an emergency declaration in the event of an actual or threatened occurrence of a disaster or emergency which may result in large-scale property damage or destruction or result in major disruption of community affairs, business services or governmental operations; and

WHEREAS, the impending winter storm for which the winter storm watch was issued threatens to inflict large scale property damage, personal injury, and a major disruption of community affairs, business services and governmental operations within Gwinnett County; and

WHEREAS, the winter storm is projected to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant extraordinary assistance by state and local governments to supplement the efforts of available public and private resources; and

WHEREAS, based upon the Governor's declared State of Emergency for winter weather, I believe that it is in the best interest of Gwinnett County and its residents to declare a local state of emergency to activate certain emergency powers under the Gwinnett County Emergency Management Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chairwoman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a Local State of Emergency exists in Gwinnett County due to the projected impact of this major winter storm;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

- (1) That pursuant to Section 34-22(d) of the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County, the Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners may:
 - Utilize all available resources of the County and subordinate agencies over which the County has budgetary control as reasonably necessary to cope with the impact of this major winter storm on Gwinnett County;
 - Utilize public property, resources and facilities as necessary to cope with this major winter storm or when there is compelling necessity for the protection of lives, health and welfare;
 - Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing, emergency shelters, and/or emergency medical shelters;
 - Perform and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the population during this Local Emergency.
- (2) Pursuant to Section 34-24 of the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, the County's procedures for soliciting and advertising projects pursuant to the County's Purchasing Ordinance may be suspended during this Local Emergency to meet the needs of the County and its citizens in responding to the major winter storm.
- (3) Authority is hereby delegated to the County Administrator to utilize all available resources and facilities to respond to the major winter storm and to take any actions necessary to continue or close county operations as needed during this

Local Emergency.

- (4) That this Declaration of Local Emergency shall continue until January 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m., unless renewed in accordance with Section 34-21 of the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, or until such time as the Chairwoman finds that the emergency conditions no longer exist or the Declaration of Local Emergency is ended in accordance with Section 34-21(b).

This 22nd day of January, 2026 at 4:50 P.M.

Nicole Love Hendrickson

Nicole Love Hendrickson, Chairwoman
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

Tina M King

Tina King, County Clerk



Approved as to Form:

By: *Michael P. Ludwiczak*

Michael P. Ludwiczak
County Attorney