



MITCHELL COUNTY

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Whereas, current weather projections indicate that winter storm Gianna is anticipated to hit the State of North Carolina and specifically Mitchell County on or about January 30, 2026, causing significant impacts; and

Whereas, the projected winter storm poses a danger to public safety, threatening public and private property, and may disrupt essential services and transportation throughout the county; and

Whereas, on January 24 and 25, 2026, Mitchell County experienced severe winter weather, including freezing rain, which caused power outages and hazardous conditions, and has since experienced sustained below-average temperatures, further exacerbating the impact on public safety, infrastructure, and essential services; and

Whereas, the projected winter storm constitutes a state of emergency as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19); and

Whereas, certain measures are necessary to ensure the protection and safety of North Carolina residents and to coordinate the emergency response among state and local entities and officials; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Mitchell County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes:

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

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be the entire jurisdiction.

Section 3. I hereby order all Mitchell County law enforcement officers, 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 Mitchell County Emergency Operations Plan.

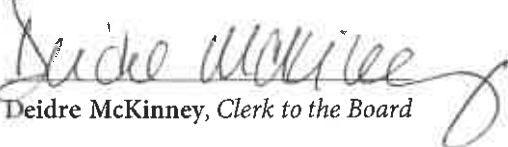
Section 4. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary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

Section 5. This declaration shall take effect on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 12:00 pm and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED


Jeff Harding, Chair
Mitchell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Deidre McKinney, Clerk to the Board