



SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY
BY
SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS
AUGUST 22, 2026

WHEREAS, This Executive Order to Declare a State of Emergency, is made by the Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, On the afternoon of August 22, 2026, the National Weather Service forecasted severe weather for this region including Shelby County, Tennessee. Severe thunderstorms moved across Shelby County, with straight-line winds in excess of eighty (80) miles per hour. Memphis Light, Gas & Water has reported loss of power to approximately one hundred-forty thousand (140,000) citizens of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, These extreme, severe weather conditions have created dangerous circumstances that have resulted in loss of power, and further, has resulted in damage to homes, businesses, public property and threatened the safety of the citizens and property throughout Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, These extreme conditions required emergency response including, but not limited to, sheltering and emergency protective measures for residents who were and are without adequate shelter and water, and expenditures of funds for other measures to protect individuals and property in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, In consideration of the severe weather which impacted the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Shelby County, it is in the public's interest that a Local State of Emergency be declared by the Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee pursuant to the authority of Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-8-104, Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-2-110(3)(A), and such other authority granted by law and vested in the Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lee Harris, Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me, do hereby direct and order the following:

1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared for the area within Shelby County, Tennessee.
2. The duration of this state of emergency will commence August 22, 2026, and continue until the end of the severe weather event, but shall be limited to seven (7) days unless it is necessary to extend it by Executive Order for additional seven (7) day increments as permitted by law.
3. As authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-2-110(3)(A), Shelby County Government will:
 - a. As necessary and appropriately, expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency

management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victims of any emergency; and direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by the federal and state emergency management agencies;

- b. As necessary, appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, rescue teams, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers;
- c. If deemed necessary and in addition to the primary emergency operating center, establish one or more secondary emergency operating centers to provide continuity of government and direction and control of emergency operations;
- d. Request state assistance or, as needed, invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance in the event of an emergency affecting another political subdivision. It may be extended, as necessary, in seven-day increments.

FURTHER, All agencies, departments, and divisions of Shelby County Government shall discharge their responsibilities as deemed necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare consistent with the provisions of this Declaration of a Local State of Emergency.

FURTHER, As the County Executive of Shelby County, Tennessee, I, Lee Harris, exercise the authority given me under Title 58 of the Tennessee Code to preserve the public safety and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of this County.

FURTHER, I hereby direct all departments and agencies of Shelby County to take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure, and provide such emergency assistance deemed necessary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, By the authority vested in me, I have hereunto set my hand and signed this Executive Order this _____ day of August 2026.



Lee Harris, Shelby County Mayor

Attest