



Declaration of Local State of Emergency by The Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee

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

WHEREAS, The President of the United States of America issued a Presidential Memorandum on September 15, 2025, titled "Restoring Law and Order in Memphis" ("Federal Memorandum"); and

WHEREAS, This Federal Memorandum created the Memphis Safe Task Force with the intent of increasing law enforcement and a military presence in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the Presidential Memorandum, the President of the United States and of the Governor of the State of Tennessee have deployed federal law enforcement officers and the Tennessee National Guard in Shelby County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Local governments and law enforcement agencies have seen an increase in law enforcement activity and have been told to expect increased arrests at nearly 200% of current daily rates, and it has become apparent that current physical and financial resources cannot support the proposed impact of these federal operations; and

WHEREAS, Despite tireless efforts by County personnel to mitigate the situation, current populations in all detention facilities of Shelby County, Tennessee are strained and near or at maximum capacity, with staffing limited; and

WHEREAS, These extreme conditions require emergency responses including, but not limited to, expenditures of funds for measures necessary to respond to increased federal and military operations and to protect individuals and property in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, In consideration of law enforcement (federal, state, and local in nature) and military operations by the federal government—which will likely impact the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Shelby County through increased demand on detention facilities that are already at or near capacity—and the concomitant strain on local financial resources, Shelby County is left with no other choice but to respond as may be required by law; and

WHEREAS, 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:

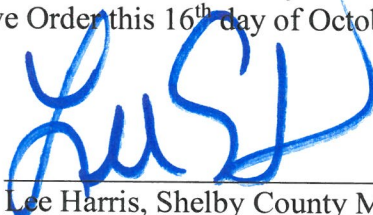
1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared for the area within Shelby County, Tennessee.
2. The duration of this state of emergency will commence October 16, 2025, and continue until the end of Memphis Safe Task Force operations or until detention facility populations are reduced to capacity level or below or until rescinded, and such state 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 appropriate, 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; and
 - d. Request state assistance or, as needed, invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance in the event of an emergency affecting another political subdivision.

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 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, property, public infrastructure, and to 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 16th day of October 2025.



Lee Harris, Shelby County Mayor