RESOLUTION 2026 - __

2026 FALL FLOODING EVENT – LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO SEVERE RAINFALL AND FLOODING; PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 252, FLORIDA STATUTES AND PUTNAM COUNTY ORDINANCES, ARTICLE II, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 16-19 THROUGH 16-26; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The State of Florida and Putnam County are experiencing an imminent threat of personal injury and property damage due to severe rainfall and major flooding, which Putnam County is under a Flood Watch and Coastal Flood Warning issued by the National Weather Service on the 20th of November 2026, and declared under the State of Florida Executive Order 26-232 dated 18th of November 2026, which is forecast to bring heavy rainfall and Major Stage Flooding on the St. Johns River impending within in the next 48 hours, for the Putnam County area;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes and Section 16, Putnam County Code of Ordinances, the declaration of an emergency in Putnam County, Florida is hereby issued by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Emergency Operations and Preparedness or their Designee, shall function as the County Coordinating Officer. All Government agencies shall coordinate with the County Emergency Operations Center for all requests for assistance through the appropriate Emergency Support Function; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to be in a position to protect all individuals in the county and maximize all available resources; and

WHEREAS, all Putnam County assets and personnel are hereby ordered to be placed at the disposal of the County Coordinating Officer; and

WHEREAS, any County regulations prescribing procedures for the conduct of County business, if strict compliance would hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency are hereby suspended. Suspension of such procedures shall be at the direction of the County Administrator and/or County Coordinating Officer or his/her designee; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to ensure all possible efforts are being made to protect human life and property. The Emergency Management Ordinance 96-14 and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan are hereby activated and Putnam County Emergency Management / County Coordinating Officer shall have the authority to take all actions necessary to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and property of Putnam County

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Declaration of a Local State of Emergency:

The above recitals are true and correct and hereby incorporated as a material part of this resolution as if fully stated herein.

The continued heavy rainfall and rising river levels increasing from Minor Flood Stage due to upstream outflow exceeding Major Flood Stage in Astor, reverse flow on the St. Johns River, Easterly winds, and impending high tide cycle, forecasted to rise beyond Major Flood Stage in Putnam County within 48 hours, and potential extended duration of Major Flood stage for a week or more, constitutes a serious threat to health, safety and welfare of the people and property of

Putnam County, Florida and that a State of Local Emergency is hereby declared, effective immediately, for the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Putnam County.

The County Administrator and/or County Coordinating Officer or his or her Designees are authorized to take all action necessary and appropriate to secure resources to protect human life and property and to utilize all lawful authority granted to the County under State and County laws as necessary to accomplish same.

Section 2. Direction to Clerk:

The Clerk shall record this Resolution in the Public Records of Putnam County, Florida and shall transmit a certified copy to the Putnam County Property Appraiser.

Section 3. Effective Date:

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect for seven (7) days unless extended pursuant to Section 4 of this Resolution or rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. Authorization to Extend:

The Board of County Commissioners recognize the circumstances and conditions which necessitate the foregoing Resolution may extend beyond seven (7) days, and therefore, the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorize Chairwoman Wilkinson to extend the local State of Emergency in her sole discretion. Any subsequent extension shall be reported to the Board of County Commissioners at the following regularly scheduled Board of County Commission meeting.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, effective immediately, by the Putnam County Commission Chair Leota Wilkinson, of Putnam County, Florida, this 20th day of November 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Leota Wilkinson

Leota Wilkinson,
Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Terry Suggs,
County Administrator