



Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor

## Executive Order

### **NUMBER SEVEN (2026)**

#### **DELEGATING THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY, TO CALL THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD TO ACTIVE SERVICE FOR EMERGENCIES OR DISASTERS, AND TO DECLARE THE GOVERNOR UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HER OFFICE WHEN THE GOVERNOR CANNOT BE REACHED OR IS INCAPACITATED**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under § 2.2-104 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to the provisions stated herein, I hereby affirm and delegate to the Chief of Staff, followed in protocol order by the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the State Coordinator of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, my authorities under §§ 44-146.17 and 44-75.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, to declare a state of emergency and to call forth the Virginia National Guard or any part thereof to state-active duty in any of the circumstances outlined in subsections 4 and 5 of § 44-75.1.A of the *Code of Virginia*.

I further hereby affirm and delegate to the Chief of Staff, my authority under Article V, § 16 of the Constitution of Virginia and under § 24.2-211 of the *Code of Virginia* to transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, a declaration I am unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Governor's office.

Each of these declarations is subject to the following conditions:

1. Such delegation is subject always to my continuing, ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, and in the case of a declaration that I am unable to discharge the powers and duties of my office, my ability to transmit to the Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Delegates my written declaration that no inability continues to exist and to resume the powers and duties of my office.
2. Use of this delegation is contingent upon my being unable to be reached so as to give my

approval for the declaration of a state of emergency, as defined in § 44-146.16 of the *Code of Virginia*, or use of the Virginia National Guard.

3. Use of this delegation to declare that I am unable to discharge the powers and duties of my office is specifically contingent upon my being unable to be reached or otherwise incapacitated for over 24 hours and the unavailability of any one of the Attorney General, President pro tempore of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Delegates.
4. This delegation is strictly standby in nature, to be held in abeyance until such time as there may be explicit circumstances involving an emergency whereby human lives and public and private property are threatened in the event of natural or man-made emergencies or disasters.
5. If the authority granted under this Executive Order is used, the Lieutenant Governor and I shall be informed of such use as soon as practicable.

### **Effective Date of the Executive Order**

This Executive Order supersedes and rescinds Executive Order No. 13 (2022) issued by Governor Glenn Youngkin on January 20, 2022.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until January 31, 2030, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 17th day of January 2026.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Abigail D. Spanberger".

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Abigail D. Spanberger, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer B. Moon".

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Jennifer B. Moon, Secretary of the Commonwealth