



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Walt Blackman Urges Governor Hobbs to Declare Emergency in Gila County

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Walt Blackman, Chairman of the House Government Committee, today called on Governor Katie Hobbs to declare a State of Emergency in Gila County after catastrophic flooding Thursday and Friday, with more storms possible this weekend.

The storms have [killed at least three people](#), swept away vehicles, damaged historic buildings, and scattered hazardous debris, including propane tanks. Search and rescue teams remain on the ground as additional rain is forecast for Saturday and Sunday.

“The people of Gila County are facing a disaster that has taken lives, destroyed homes and businesses, and left our communities in crisis,” said Representative Blackman. **“I am in constant contact with local and state officials and working around the clock to make sure families get the help they need. I urge Governor Hobbs to act immediately so state resources can be mobilized for rescue, recovery, and rebuilding.”**

An emergency declaration would allow Gila County to access state resources and support to stabilize the situation, protect public safety, and begin recovery operations.

“Gila County residents need help now,” Representative Blackman said. **“I am calling on the Governor to issue this declaration without delay. Every hour counts when lives and property are at risk.”**

Representative Walt Blackman is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7 and is Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.

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