

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ARANSAS

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COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Aransas County Resolution #DDR-51-2025
DECLARING LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the dramatic and sustained increase in illegal border crossings along the Texas-Mexico border (the "Border Crisis") and the subsequent movement of individuals into and through Aransas County as a result of the Border Crisis, places the residents of Aransas County under an imminent threat of disaster to their health, life and property; and

WHEREAS, Aransas County lies along the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, as defined by Section 51.002 Transportation Code, and is located on a main corridor from the Rio Grande Valley, to Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas, all of which are major corridors for drug and human smuggling; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Aransas County had the highest drug poisoning death rate in the region with 39 deaths per 100,000 and the third highest drug overdose death rate in Texas based on a Center for Disease Control study entitled "County-Level Drug Overdose Mortality in the United States, 2003-2021"; and

WHEREAS, although the Texas Operation Lone Star Program and the United States Operation Stonegarden Program have historically provided adequate support to local and state law enforcement in the respective efforts to combat seasonal and historical levels of criminal activity resulting, in part at least, from illegal border crossings, those programs alone are not sufficient to support the extended and increased pressure placed on local and state law enforcement resources by the Border Crisis; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Aransas County are also under an imminent threat of disaster from the Border Crisis in the event that local and state law enforcement are unable to dedicate adequate resources to those agency's primary law enforcement duties because their limited resources are strained by having to address criminal activity attributable to the Border Crisis; and

WHEREAS, Aransas County has been the location of numerous situations involving illegals endangering the lives of local residents and the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the imminent threat of disaster faced by Aransas County and its residents, Aransas County also recognizes the humanitarian crisis caused by the Border Crisis and the strain that such humanitarian efforts exert upon local and state law enforcement, local government and the community at large, to accommodate trafficked individuals interdicted within Aransas County as a result of the failure to prevent illegal border crossings at the Texas-Mexico border, which places Aransas County under an imminent threat of disaster as well; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, in consideration of the former worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial efforts of Aransas County and its local and regional partners to protect the safety and security of Aransas County residents through COVID and flu testing along with monitoring and vaccination programs, the sustained increase in the movement of persons coming in or through Aransas County as a result of the Border Crisis, places Aransas County at a substantial increased risk of exposure to new and novel strains of COVID and other contagious diseases for which Aransas County resources are inadequate to effectively address for the purpose of protecting

Aransas County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Aransas County, Texas, has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to ensure the protection of the health, safety and welfare of County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Commissioners Court of Aransas County, Texas:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Aransas County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code; and
2. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless renewed by the County Judge or continued by the Commissioners' Court of Aransas County; and
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code , this declaration of a local state-of-disaster activates the Aransas County emergency management plan; and
4. That this resolution authorizes the use of all lawfully available resources and authority granted under both the laws and Constitution of Texas and the Constitution of the United States; and
5. That additional directives may be issued by further order of the Commissioners Court of Aransas County, Texas, at any time deemed necessary, including without limitation, seeking the assistance of additional law enforcement support pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 362.002 and seeking the assistance of the Governor of the State of Texas in providing military support for the dual purpose of law enforcement and presentation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Aransas County.

APPROVED and ORDERED this 23rd day of December 2025.



RAY A. GARZA, County Judge

FILED FOR RECORD

AT 08:17 AM

Dec 23 2025

MISTY KIMBROUGH
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS