



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

August 18, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

David Richardson, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Administrator Richardson, and Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

We, the members of the Milwaukee Common Council, write with profound urgency on behalf of our resilient yet shattered communities. As the front-line representatives engaging directly with residents, we have heard their cries firsthand: the historic flooding of August 9 and 10, 2025, has devastated thousands, leaving families homeless, livelihoods destroyed, and futures uncertain.

We implore you to issue a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Milwaukee County and southeast Wisconsin, unlocking vital resources for recovery.

The storm's ferocity is well-documented—record rainfall turned neighborhoods into disaster zones—but the human suffering demands our focus. This storm has touched residents in every aldermanic district, as many Milwaukeeans were impacted or know someone who has been. Imagine a northwest Milwaukee family losing every possession in hours, their basement a toxic swamp, or a south side resident watching contaminated water ruin irreplaceable heirlooms and essential appliances. These are our neighbors: parents scrambling for temporary shelter, elders isolated without power, small business owners staring at ruined inventories. Compounding the agony, insurance denials are rampant—standard policies exclude floods, and even sewer backup riders fail, leaving most without recourse. Only 5% of homeowners nationwide carry flood insurance, and here, families believed protected now face rejection, relying on depleted savings or overburdened aid.

This crisis deepens inequities in our most vulnerable areas: low-income residents battle mold, contaminated water, and trauma, while psychological scars linger in displaced children and the elderly. We have fielded countless calls, witnessed discarded family treasures at drop-off sites, and felt the weight of stories that compel urgent moral action.

We deeply thank the local, state, and federal employees working tirelessly since the flood hit. We commend those officials, including delegation members, who have visited, seen the heartbreak, and advocated for assistance to our ravaged communities. We urge all who haven't yet to join our call for urgent federal assistance before this disaster compounds further.


While local and state agencies have mobilized initial help, they fall short. A federal declaration is essential for individual aid, infrastructure fixes, and long-term resilience against the climate's growing threat to our watershed region.

Milwaukee's spirit endures, but its recovery hinges upon your help.

Respectfully,



Andrea A. Pratt
Alderswoman, 1st District



Mark Chambers, Jr.
Alderman, 2nd District



Alex Brower
Alderman, 3rd District



Robert J. Bauman
Alderman, 4th District



Lamont Westmoreland
Alderman, 5th District



Milele A. Coggs
Alderswoman, 6th District



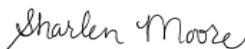
DiAndre Jackson
Alderman, 7th District



JoCasta Zamarripa
Alderswoman, 8th District



Larresa Taylor
Alderswoman, 9th District



Sharlen Moore
Alderswoman, 10th District



Peter Burgelis
Alderman, 11th District



José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District



Scott P. Spiker
Alderman, 13th District



Marina Dimitrijevic
Alderswoman, 14th District



Russell W. Stamper, II
Alderman, 15th District