

One Year After Helene: The Trump Administration's Broken Promise to Georgia

The Trump administration is holding up nearly \$500 million in promised disaster aid to Georgia

THE BOTTOM LINE

One year after Hurricane Helene, Georgia communities are still waiting on the Trump administration to release nearly \$500 million in federal disaster reimbursements.

Congress approved the money. Georgia did the work. But the Trump administration continues to stall for no good reason, leaving Georgia's communities to foot a nearly half-a-billion-dollar bill.

Until now, this failure has been hidden from the public. On the solemn one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene, Senator Reverend Warnock is demanding answers and calling on President Trump and Secretary Noem to finally release the aid Georgia was promised.

"If we expect hardworking Georgians to do their job in the midst of disaster, they should expect us to do ours. It is a reasonable service. It is the least we can do."

— Senator Reverend Warnock

WASHINGTON'S PROMISE

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene tore through the Southeast. Its catastrophic winds and flooding devastated Georgia. In just two days, the storm became the deadliest in nearly two decades.

Georgians did not wait for help; they got to work. Families cleared roads. Farmers salvaged crops. Community organizations and businesses provided food, water, and shelter to their neighbors. Senator Reverend Warnock joined them, [traveling across the state](#) to deliver supplies, meet survivors, and secure commitments from federal leaders to help Georgia get back on its feet.



Senator Reverend Warnock distributing bottled water to the Augusta, GA community following Hurricane Helene



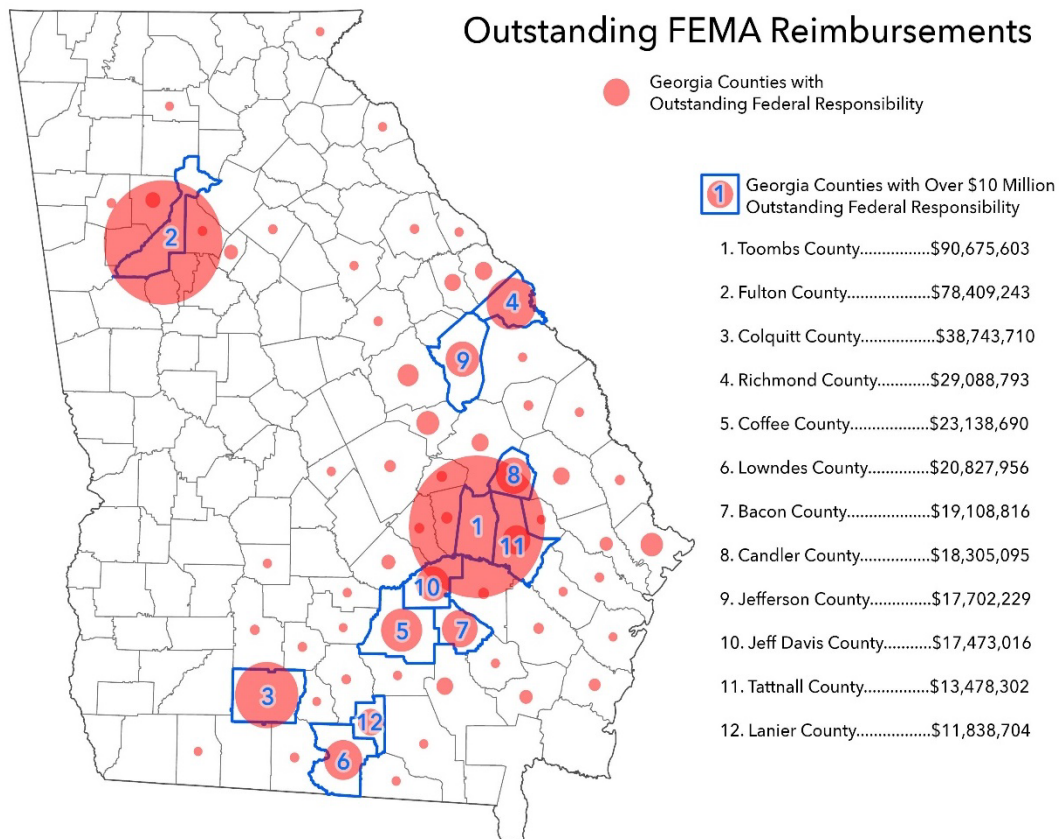
Inspired by the resilience of Georgians, Senator Reverend Warnock vowed to uplift Georgia communities in Washington just as they uplifted each other.

On December 21, 2024, [following relentless pressure from Senator Reverend Warnock](#) on behalf of Georgia’s farmers, families, and communities, Congress and President Biden signed into law a \$100 billion disaster recovery package. Washington promised those rebuilding that they would not be abandoned.

Senator Reverend Warnock speaking on the Senate floor in support of a \$100 billion disaster relief package

A BROKEN PROMISE: NEARLY \$500 MILLION IN LIMBO

But one year later, the Trump administration has broken that promise. Despite historic bipartisan support for swift relief, Georgia is still waiting on the Trump administration to deliver nearly half a billion dollars in reimbursements for work already done.



Outstanding FEMA Reimbursements (Approximate figures as of 9/22/2025)			
County	Unpaid Federal Share	County	Unpaid Federal Share
Toombs County	\$ 90,675,603.23	Jenkins County	\$ 675,395.95
Fulton County	\$ 78,409,242.63	Wheeler County	\$ 626,178.66
Colquitt County	\$ 38,743,709.87	Effingham County	\$ 542,721.46
Richmond County	\$ 29,088,793.20	Hancock County	\$ 522,228.78
Coffee County	\$ 23,138,690.45	Liberty County	\$ 512,896.62
Lowndes County	\$ 20,827,955.57	Paulding County	\$ 460,954.33
Bacon County	\$ 19,108,816.00	Berrien County	\$ 426,488.70
Candler County	\$ 18,305,095.24	Tift County	\$ 376,398.84
Jefferson County	\$ 17,702,229.21	Wilkes County	\$ 329,756.84
Jeff Davis County	\$ 17,473,015.59	Walton County	\$ 297,228.56
Tattnall County	\$ 13,478,302.10	DeKalb County	\$ 289,162.47
Lanier County	\$ 11,838,703.79	Ben Hill County	\$ 218,059.45
Johnson County	\$ 9,943,117.77	Crisp County	\$ 195,295.19
Chatham County	\$ 9,740,960.18	Bleckley County	\$ 182,993.16
Washington County	\$ 8,629,598.47	Burke County	\$ 176,616.31
Columbia County	\$ 6,106,070.30	Pierce County	\$ 170,762.44
Emanuel County	\$ 5,666,813.78	Evans County	\$ 128,661.20
Bulloch County	\$ 5,565,650.82	Screven County	\$ 116,295.23
Ware County	\$ 5,498,962.01	Echols County	\$ 99,632.82
McDuffie County	\$ 5,378,699.42	Atkinson County	\$ 98,105.06
Rockdale County	\$ 3,562,408.28	Long County	\$ 87,641.78
Telfair County	\$ 3,467,975.89	Hart County	\$ 81,363.33
Brantley County	\$ 3,084,015.52	Lincoln County	\$ 74,915.32
Bryan County	\$ 3,046,957.57	Greene County	\$ 64,593.83
Glynn County	\$ 1,988,902.66	Clinch County	\$ 64,437.75
Laurens County	\$ 1,833,375.69	Irwin County	\$ 40,088.08
Montgomery County	\$ 1,615,351.31	Pickens County	\$ 15,362.17
Appling County	\$ 1,348,260.98	Cook County	\$ 11,563.33
Wayne County	\$ 1,233,656.37	McIntosh County	\$ 9,322.85
Treutlen County	\$ 1,105,985.97	Grady County	\$ 5,226.85
Worth County	\$ 760,307.86		

TOTAL: \$465,267,575.09

WHAT WENT WRONG

These delays are no accident. They are the result of bureaucratic red tape, chaos, dysfunctional leadership, and political games inside the Trump administration:

- **Bureaucratic Bottleneck:** [*NBC*](#) reports that Secretary Noem now requires that all agency spending over \$100,000 be personally approved by her
- **Internal Alarm Bells:** [*CBS*](#) revealed a Trump admin internal review found FEMA 'Not Ready' for hurricane season
- **Leadership Chaos:** [*Federal News Network*](#) reported Trump admin fired acting FEMA Administrator just one day after testifying before Congress
- **Revoked Promises:** [*WTOC*](#) reports FEMA cut an already approved \$30 million grant to improve flooding and drainage issues in Savannah, even though it was ready to save lives and support businesses

WHAT'S NEXT

Georgians did their part. Now, on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene, the Trump administration must honor its commitments.

FEMA's sacred duty is to stand with the American people in their hour of greatest need. Instead, the Trump administration has left Georgia communities with a nearly **half-a-billion-dollar bill** and a **dangerous question**: if disaster struck tomorrow, would the Trump administration show up?

Senator Reverend Warnock will not sit idly by while this administration gambles with the lives and livelihoods of Georgians. He has already pressed Secretary Noem for basic answers in two oversight letters, worked across the aisle on efforts to restore critical disaster programs, and demanded accountability for the Trump administration's broken promises.

And Senator Warnock will remain relentless in demanding answers from the Trump administration and fighting until Georgia's communities get the relief they were promised.