Florence likely to batter the Carolinas for days

By REBECCA COLVIN
The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Hurricane Florence put a corridor of more than 10 million people in the Southeast on high alert Monday as the monster storm closed in on the region for days, spreading worry across a widening swath of the Carolinas for days, starting with North and South Carolina in the projected path spreading scary news across a widening mouth of the Southeast.

Faced with new forecasts that showed a more southerly threat, Georgia's governor joined his counterparts in Virginia and South and North Carolina in issuing evacuation orders of all kinds as Florence threatened to make landfall Wednesday on the southeastern coast.

“Hurricane Florence could be the storm of the century for our state,” Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said on Monday. “We're on high alert today. We're going to take every precaution necessary to protect our citizens.”

Trump order to penalize foreign vote meddling gets mixed reaction

By JONATHAN LAMBERT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump issued an order Wednesday authorizing additional sanctions against countries or individuals for meddling in U.S. elections, but law enforcement and election officials said they did not expect it to have much practical impact.

The order would allow Trump to impose sanctions on foreign governments that interfere with U.S. elections through such actions as hacking or spreading disinformation. The order comes just days before the midterms and follows threats he made in December to impose such sanctions.

Trump's order calls for additional sanctions on countries or individuals that engage in "interfering in U.S. elections through such actions as hacking or spreading disinformation," among other activities.

"The order does not appear to create any new legal or enforcement tools," said Kyle O'Malley, an election security expert at the University of Southern California. "It is more symbolic than substantive."