LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The job of the Lieutenant Governor is to: serve as acting Governor when the Governor is absent from the state, or if the Governor is removed from office or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office; serve as presiding officer (President) of the Senate; to discharge other duties as prescribed by law; and manage a state agency.

Acting Governor

The Lieutenant Governor becomes the acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve. In this capacity, the Lieutenant Governor needs to be prepared to assume all of the state's executive responsibilities at a moment's notice, particularly in response to an emergency.

President of the Senate

As President of the Senate, the Lieutenant Governor presides at the rostrum in the Senate chambers whenever the Senate is in session, where he leads the parliamentary discussion as legislation is being debated. If there is a dispute on the floor, or if there is a question on the procedural correctness or legality of a motion, the Lieutenant Governor makes a ruling on the matter.

The Lieutenant Governor also presides over all joint sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives, which notably occurs during the Governor's annual State of the State Address, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court's State of the Judiciary Address, and other occasions such as when foreign dignitaries address the Legislature.

The Lieutenant Governor chairs the Senate Rules Committee, the 17-member committee that determines which legislation advances to the Senate Floor Calendar. The Lieutenant Governor is a voting member of the Senate Rules Committee.

Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (RCW 43.15.060)

The Lieutenant Governor by law chairs the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and International Relations (LCEDIR). This bicameral committee consists of 16 legislators, four from each caucus of the House and the Senate, plus the Lieutenant Governor as chair.

LCEDIR is authorized to study and review economic development issues with special emphasis on international trade, tourism, investment, and industrial development, and to assist the Legislature in developing a comprehensive and consistent economic development policy.

As chair of LCEDIR the Lieutenant Governor is the state's representative to the Washington State-British Columbia interparliamentary exchange group (RCW 44.04.420). The purpose of the group is to facilitate legislator-to-legislator communication between the two governments, in coordination with the province of British Columbia.

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor meets with foreign dignitaries and officials on behalf of the State, including by participating in local cultural events hosted by foreign governments and community groups. Additionally, the Lieutenant Governor represents the State by leading trade and diplomatic missions to foreign countries, in partnership with the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce.

Other Committee and Appointment Responsibilities

The Lieutenant Governor serves on the following boards and committees:

- Capitol Furnishings Preservation Committee, RCW 27.48.040;
- Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority, RCW 28B.07.030;
- Productivity Board, also known as the Employee Involvement And Recognition Board, RCW 41.60.015;
- State Finance Committee, RCW 43.33.010;
- State Capitol Committee, RCW 43.34.010;
- Washington Health Care Facilities Authority, RCW 70.37.030;
- State Medal of Merit Nominating Committee, RCW 1.40.020;
- Medal of Valor Committee, RCW 1.60.020;
- Washington State Leadership Board, RCW 43.388.010;
- Billy Frank Jr. National Statuary Hall Selection Committee (Uncodified);
- America250 Committee (Uncodified).

The Lieutenant Governor, and when serving as President of the Senate, appoints members to the following boards and committees:

- Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee, RCW 2.53.010;
- Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee, RCW 2.70.030;
- Washington State Gambling Commission, RCW 9.46.040;
- Sentencing Guidelines Commission, RCW 9.94A.860;
- State Building Code Council, RCW 19.27.070;
- Financial Education Public-Private Partnership, RCW 28A.300.450;
- Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee, RCW 34.05.610;
- Capital Projects Advisory Review Board, RCW 39.10.220;
- Select Committee on Pension Policy, RCW 41.04.276;
- Legislative Ethics Board, RCW 42.52.310;
- Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries, RCW 43.03.305;
- Legislative Oral History Committee, RCW 44.04.325;
- State Council on Aging, RCW 43.20A.685;
- State Investment Board, RCW 43.33A.020;
- Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee, RCW 43.34.080;
- Washington State Arts Commission, RCW 43.46.015;
- PNWER-Net Working Subgroup Under Chapter RCW 43.147;
- Community Economic Revitalization Board, RCW 43.160.030;
- Washington Economic Development Finance Authority, RCW 43.163.020;
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, RCW 44.28.010;
- Joint Committee on Energy Supply and Energy Conservation, RCW 44.39.015;
- Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee, RCW 44.48.010;
- Washington Horse Racing Commission, RCW 67.16.014;
- Correctional Industries Board of Directors, RCW 72.09.080;
- Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, RCW 73.04.150;
- Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought, RCW 90.86.020; and
- Statute Law Committee, RCW 1.08.001.

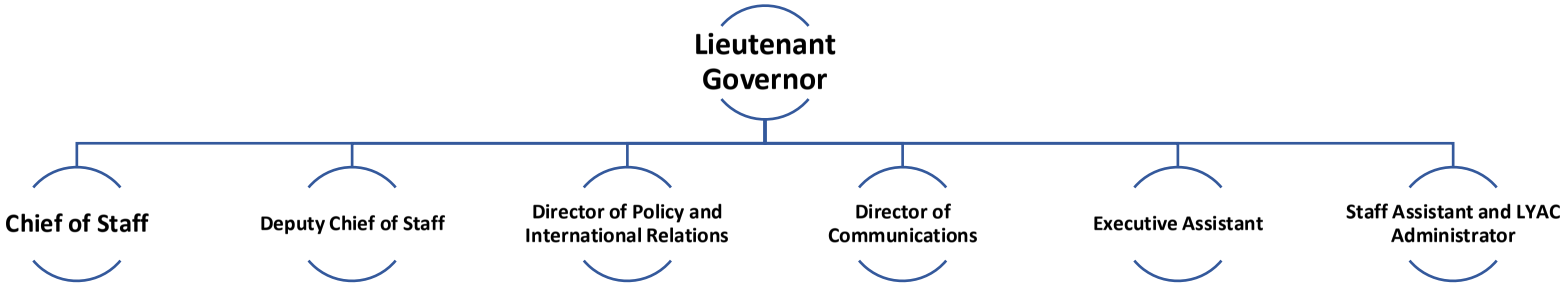
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor leads the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, a state agency that supports the Lieutenant Governor in carrying out his (or her) official duties and those assigned to the office by statute.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor administers the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (RCW 43.15.095). The council consists of at least 22 youth aged 14-18, appointed to two-year terms by the Lieutenant Governor. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor schedules the council's meetings and monthly activities associated with carrying out the council's duties to advise the Legislature on matters of importance to youth in the state.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor also assists Washingtonians navigate their state government by providing casework assistance and connection to their legislators and members of Congress, and other state agencies.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Organization Chart



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