

What do they do?

Qualifications and responsibilities for state executive offices

Each office has different qualifications and varying responsibilities. One common qualification for all these elected offices is that a candidate must be a registered voter. To run and serve in a state executive office, a candidate must be a registered voter of the state. State executive officers are elected statewide to serve four-year terms.

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state. The Governor appoints hundreds of positions, including directors of state agencies. The Governor reports annually to the Legislature on affairs of the state and submits a budget recommendation. The Governor may veto (reject) legislation passed by the Legislature.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is elected independently of the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor acts as Governor if the Governor is unable to perform the official duties of the office and is first in line of succession if the office of Governor becomes vacant. The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the state Senate.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the state's chief elections officer, chief corporations officer, and oversees the state Archives and Library. Primary functions include certifying election results, filing and verifying initiatives and referenda, publishing the state voters' pamphlet, registering and licensing corporations, limited partnerships and trademarks, registering charitable organizations, and collecting and preserving historical records of the state. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession for the office of Governor.

Treasurer

As the state's fiscal officer, the state Treasurer's principal duties are to manage and disperse all funds and accounts, be responsible for the safekeeping and interest on all state investments, account for and make payments of interest and principal on all state bonded indebtedness, and maintain a statewide revenue collection system for the purpose of expediting the deposit of state funds into the Treasury.

Auditor

The state Auditor conducts independent financial, accountability, and performance audits of all Washington state and local governments. The state Auditor conducts investigations of whistleblower assertions about state

agencies and also investigates reports of fraud, waste, and abuse received through its citizen hotline. Audit and investigation results are documented and reported to governments and the public.

Attorney General

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state officials, and more than 230 state agencies, boards and commissions, colleges and universities. The office also represents the various administrative agencies and schools in court or administrative hearings. The Office of the Attorney General enforces consumer protection statutes and serves the public directly by providing information on consumer rights and fraudulent business practices.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent of Public Instruction is a nonpartisan position. As head of the state educational agency and chief executive officer of the state Board of Education, the Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the state kindergarten through twelfth grade education programs. The regulatory duties of the office include certification of teaching personnel, approval and accreditation of programs, and apportionment of state and local funds. The Superintendent also provides assistance to school districts' improvement areas.

Commissioner of Public Lands

The Commissioner of Public Lands is the head of the Department of Natural Resources, overseeing the management of 5 million acres of forest, agricultural, range, tidal, and shore lands of the state. Subject to proprietary policies established by the Board of Natural Resources, the Commissioner is responsible for the exercise of all duties and functions of the department.

Insurance Commissioner

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner regulates insurance companies doing business in Washington, licenses agents and brokers, reviews policies and rates, examines the operations and finances of insurers, and handles inquiries and complaints from the public.