

= Governor of Maryland =

The Governor of Maryland heads the executive branch of the government of Maryland , and is the commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the state 's National Guard units . The Governor is the highest @-@ ranking official in the state and has a broad range of appointive powers in both the State and local governments , as specified by the Maryland Constitution . Because of the extent of these constitutional powers , the Governor of Maryland has been ranked as being among the most powerful Governors in the United States .

The current Governor is Larry Hogan , a Republican who defeated Lt. Governor Anthony Brown on November 4 , 2014 .

= = Selection and qualifications = =

Like most state chief executives in the United States , the Governor is elected by the citizens of Maryland to serve a four @-@ year term . Under the Constitution of Maryland , the Governor can run any number of times , but not more than twice in a row . This makes it possible for a two @-@ term governor to run for the office again after remaining out of office for at least one term . An eligible candidate for Governor must be at least 30 years old , and also a resident of and a registered voter in Maryland for the five years preceding the election . If a candidate meets this minimum requirement , he or she must file his or her candidacy with the Maryland State Board of Elections , pay a filing fee , file a financial disclosure , and create a legal campaign financial body . The Governor , like all statewide officials in Maryland , is elected in the even @-@ numbered years in which the election for President of the United States does not occur .

= = Functions and responsibilities = =

As the Chief Executive of the State of Maryland , the Governor heads the executive branch of government , which includes all state executive departments and agencies , as well as advisory boards , commissions , committees , and task forces . The main constitutional responsibility of the Governor of Maryland , and any other State 's chief executive , is to carry out the business of the state and to enforce the laws passed by the Legislature . The Governor also has some say in these laws , since the Governor has the ability to veto any bill sent to his or her desk by the Maryland General Assembly , though the Assembly may override that veto . The Governor is also given a number of more specific powers as relates to appropriations of state funds , the appointment of state officials , and also a variety of less prominent and less commonly utilized powers .

= = = Appropriations = = =

Every year , the Governor must present a proposed budget to the Maryland General Assembly . After receiving the proposed budget , the Assembly is then allowed to decrease any portion of the budget for the executive branch , but it may never increase it or transfer funds between executive departments . The Assembly may , however , increase funds for the Legislative and Judicial branches of government . The Governor has the power to veto any law that is passed by the Assembly , including a line item veto , which can be used to strike certain portions of appropriations bills . The Legislature then has the power to override a Governor 's veto by vote of three @-@ fifths (60 %) of the number of members in each house .

The Governor also sits on the Board of Public Works , whose other two members are the Comptroller and the Treasurer . This Board has broad powers in overseeing and approving the spending of state funds . They must approve state expenditures of all general funds and capital improvement funds , excluding expenditures for the construction of state roads , bridges , and highways . It has the power to solicit loans on its own accord either to meet a deficit or in anticipation of other revenues , in addition to approving expenditures of funds from loans authorized by the General Assembly .

= = = Appointment powers = = =

The Governor appoints almost all military and civil officers of the State government , subject to advice and consent of the Maryland State Senate . The Governor also appoints certain boards and commissions in each of the 24 Counties and in Baltimore City , such as local Boards of Elections , commissions notaries public , and appoints officers to fill vacancies in the elected offices of Attorney General and Comptroller . Should a vacancy arise in the General Assembly , the Governor also fills that vacancy , though the Governor must choose from among the recommendations of the local party organization to which the person leaving the vacancy belonged . Any officer appointed by the Governor , except a member of the General Assembly , is removable by him or her , if there is a legitimate cause for removal . Among the most prominent of the Governor 's appointees are the 24 secretaries and heads of departments that make up the Governor 's Cabinet , also known as the Executive Council .

= = = Executive Council = = =

The Governor of Maryland is the Chairman of the Governor 's Executive Council (or Cabinet) which coordinates all state government functions . This is composed of the following members , all of whom , except the Lieutenant Governor , are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland State Senate as heads of executive departments :

Lieutenant Governor- Boyd Rutherford

Secretary of State- John C. Wobensmith

Secretary of Aging- Rona E. Kramer

Secretary of Agriculture- Joe Bartenfelder

Secretary of Budget and Management- David Brinkley

Secretary of Business and Economic Development- R. Michael Gill

Secretary of Disabilities @-@ Carol Beatty

State Superintendent of Schools (appointed by the State Board of Education to direct the Maryland State Department of Education) - Lillian M. Lowery

Secretary of Environment- Ben Grumbles

Secretary of General Services- C. Gail Bassette

Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene- Van Mitchell

Secretary of Housing and Community Development- Kenneth C. Holt

Secretary of Human Resources- Sam Maholtra

Secretary of Information Technology- David Garcia

Secretary of Juvenile Services- Sam J. Abed

Secretary of Labor , Licensing , and Regulation- Kelly Schulz

Secretary of Natural Resources- Mark Belton

Secretary of Planning- David R. Craig

Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services- Stephen T. Moyer

Secretary of State Police (commanding officer of the Maryland State Police) - Col. William Pallozzi

Secretary of Transportation- Peter Rahn

Secretary of Veterans Affairs- George W. Owings III

Secretary of Higher Education (head of the Maryland Higher Education Commission) - Jennie C. Hunter @-@ Cevera

Adjutant General (head of the Maryland Military Department) - Gen. Linda Singh

Other members of the Governor 's Staff may be invited to Cabinet meetings as " attendees " .

The Governor also oversees several sub @-@ cabinets that coordinate the activities of a certain function of state government that involves several state departments or agencies . Currently , these are the Base Realignment and Closure Subcabinet , BayStat Subcabinet , Chesapeake Bay cabinet , Children 's Cabinet , Governor 's Subcabinet for International Affairs , Smart Growth Subcabinet ,

and Workforce Creation Subcabinet .

= = = Other powers and responsibilities = = =

The Governor is the commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the military forces of the State : the Maryland Army National Guard and Air National Guard and the Maryland Defense Force , except when these forces have been called into Federal service , which the Federal government has the authority to do . In times of public emergency , the Governor may exercise emergency powers , including the mobilization of these military forces . In the area of criminal justice , the Governor may grant pardons to criminals , commute the sentences of prisoners , or remit fines and forfeitures imposed on people who have been convicted , jailed , or fined for violations of state laws .

In both these areas , and a variety of others , the Governor sits on state and interstate boards and commissions with varying powers . The Governor is also obligated to report on the condition of the state at any time during the year , though this traditionally happens in a State of the State Address each January .

= = = The Governor 's Staff = = =

In addition to the various departments and agencies under gubernatorial control , the Governor has an executive staff that assist in coordinating the executive duties . This staff is led by a Chief of Staff , and includes five offices : Intergovernmental Relations , Legal Counsel , Legislative and Policy , Press , and the Governor 's Office in Washington , DC . The Chief of Staff has a number of deputies to assist in running these departments . The Governor 's staff is appointed and therefore largely exempt from state civil service laws .

= = History and evolution of the office = =

= = = 1600s ? 1800s = = =

During the Colonial period , Maryland 's Proprietors , the Lords of Baltimore , who generally remained in England , chose who would serve as the Governor of Maryland on their behalf . Between 1692 , when the Baltimores lost control , and 1715 , Maryland was a direct Royal Colony , and the Governor was appointed by the British Monarch . The Lords of Baltimore regained their Royal Charter in 1715 , and then they resumed choosing the Governors until the beginning of the American Revolution . The first Governor chosen to break this chain of Colonial Governors was Thomas Johnson (1732 ? 1819) , who took office on March 21 , 1777 .

Under the Maryland Constitution of 1776 , the Governor was chosen for one @-@ year terms by both houses of the General Assembly . An 1838 constitutional amendment allowed voters to elect the Governor to three @-@ year terms from one of three rotating gubernatorial districts : eastern , southern , and western . At each election , only voters from a single gubernatorial election district selected the Governor . The Maryland Constitution of 1851 lengthened the Governor 's term of office from three to four years , which brought elections for Governor in line with elections for Federal offices that occur only in even years . Finally , the Constitution of 1864 eliminated the rotating gubernatorial election districts and , since the election of 1868 , the Governor has been elected by all the voters of the state .

From 1777 to 1870 , the Governor resided in Jennings House in Annapolis . Since 1870 , the Governor has resided in the Government House , a Georgian mansion adjacent to the Maryland State House . In addition to being the residence for the Governor and his family , Government House has a number of public rooms that are used by the Governor on official occasions .

= = = 1900s ? present = = =

Spiro T. Agnew , who was the Governor of Maryland from 1967 ? 1969 , later served as the Vice @-@ President of the United States for a time under President Richard M. Nixon , and Agnew is , thus far , the highest @-@ ranking Marylander in the history of the United States . (Marylander Roger B. Taney served as Chief Justice of the United States in the 19th century .) Following his resignation due to charges of corruption , Agnew 's official gubernatorial portrait was removed *Damnatio memoriae* from the Maryland State House Governor 's Reception Room from 1979 until 1995 . Then @-@ Governor Parris Glendening stated that in re @-@ including Agnew 's portrait that it was not up to anyone to alter history , whether for good or bad , citing Nineteen Eighty @-@ Four . A potential factor leading to Agnew 's corruption was , at the time he took office , the governor 's salary was only \$ 15 @,@ 000 per year , leading to the " need " to supplement his income through kickbacks .

As of 2015 , Maryland has yet to have been served by a female Governor . However , women were the runners @-@ up in four gubernatorial elections (in 1974 , 1994 , 1998 , and 2002) . In addition , one woman has served as the Lieutenant Governor , Kathleen Kennedy Townsend , under Gov. Parris Glendening from 1995 to 2003 . Another woman , Kristen Cox , who was the Secretary of Disabilities , unsuccessfully ran for Lieutenant Governor as the running mate of the incumbent Governor Robert Ehrlich , when the Lieutenant Governor at that time , Michael Steele , left office to run for the U.S. Senate . Cox was a unique person to run for that office , not only because she is a woman , but also because she is legally blind .

= = Lieutenant Governor = =

In 1971 , the office of Lieutenant Governor of Maryland , which had existed for only a few years in the 1860s , was re @-@ instituted by an amendment to the Maryland Constitution . The Lieutenant Governor is a weak office compared to other counterparts (in other states including Texas , the Lieutenant Governor is the President of the State 's Senate , while in California the Lieutenant Governor assumes all of the Governor 's powers when the sitting Governor is out of the state) , as it only possesses the powers and duties that the Governor assigns to him or her . The Lieutenant Governor is elected on the same ballot with the Governor , and to the same term @-@ of @-@ office as the Governor . The Lieutenant Governor succeeds to the Governorship only if there is a vacancy in that office .

Despite the Governor and Lieutenant Governor being elected on the same party ticket , very often there have been public rifts between the two ; for instance Gov. Marvin Mandel and Lt. Gov. Blair Lee IV ; Gov. Harry R. Hughes and Lt. Gov. Samuel W. Bogley III ; Gov. Schaefer and Lt. Gov. Melvin A. Steinberg . , and Gov. Parris Glendening and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend . No Lieutenant Governor of Maryland has yet been elected as the Governor in future elections , or permanently succeeded to the Governor 's office due to a vacancy (which would be created by the resignation , death , or removal of the sitting Governor) , although Blair Lee III served as acting Governor from June 4 , 1977 until January 15 , 1979 while Governor Marvin Mandel was serving a sentence for mail fraud and racketeering (consequently , in a modern example of *Damnatio memoriae* , Mandel 's official gubernatorial portrait was not hung in the Maryland State House Governor 's Reception Room until 1993) .