

Clearinghouse 0905: Oaths of Office

State Offices	Regular Term Begins	Administration and Repository of Oath	Applicable Citations
President / Vice President	January 20	Traditionally administered by U.S. Chief Court Justice	<i>U.S. Constitution Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution & Amendment 20</i>
United States Senator and Representative	January 3 or on alternate day designated by Congress	Senate: As the President of the Senate, the Vice President administers the oath to new senators on the first day of a new Congress. House: Administered by the Speaker of the House on the first day to new representatives.	<i>U.S. Constitution Article VI, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution & Amendment 20</i>
State Executive Officers Governor Lt. Governor Secretary of State State Treasurer State Auditor Attorney General Commission of Public Lands Superintendent Of Public Instruction Insurance Commissioner	Wednesday following the 2 nd Monday in January	Administered by a Supreme Court justice at the capital. Except for the oath of the Secretary of State, all are filed with Secretary of State. The oath of the Secretary of State is filed with the State Auditor.	<i>RCW 43.01.010, 020; RCW 43.08.020; RCW 43.09.010 4 USC sec. 101</i>
Supreme Court Justice Court of Appeals Judge Superior Court Judge	2 nd Monday of January	Oath retained by Secretary of State.	<i>Washington State Constitution Article IV, Sections, 5 28 RCW 2.04.080 RCW 2.06.070, 085</i>
State Legislature: Senator Representative	2 nd Monday of January	Oath is administered orally by a Supreme Court justice on the first day of session. Oaths retained by the House and Senate.	<i>Article VI of the U.S. Constitution; RCW 29A.04.133</i>
County Special Purpose Districts	Regular Term Begins	Administration and Repository of Oath	Citations
County Officials Executive Officers	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Oath retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW 29A.20.040 RCW 36.16.040, 060</i>
District Court Judges	Second Monday in January	Prior to entering the duties of the office	<i>RCW 3.34.070 RCW 3.34.080</i>
City and Town Officials Executive Officers Municipal Court Judges	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 35.27, 120 RCW 35.23.081</i>

		Oath filed with County Auditor.	<i>RCW 35A.12.040, 080 RCW 35A.13.160</i>
Port District Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 53.12. 172</i>
Public Utility District Commissioners	January 1	Administered by an officer of the county in which the district is situated. No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Oath retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 54.12.100</i>
School Directors	Begins at first official meeting following certification of election	School officials are authorized to administer all oaths or affirmations. Retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW 28A.343.360</i>
Fire Protection District Commissioners District Secretary	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 52.14.070, 080</i>
Sewer, Water, Hospital Districts Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 57.12.030 RCW 70.44.040</i>
Cemetery Districts	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW 29A.20.030, 040 RCW 68.52.260</i>
Park and Recreation District Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	<i>RCW35.61.050</i>
Jurisdictions requiring land ownership (e.g. diking / flood control districts)	Upon certification of election	No statutory reference available.	<i>RCW 85.24.070 RCW 85.38.070 RCW 86.09.301</i>