

Oath of Office

User Notes:

There is not a required form for the oath of office set out in state law. Most of the variations are similar to the one provided.

Elected councilmembers and mayors are required to take an oath of office. Other appointed officers may also be required to take the oath of office based upon local charters or ordinances.

Comments:

Who can swear officers in? [RCW 29A.04.133](#) provides that the "oath or affirmation shall be administered and certified by any officer or notary public authorized to administer oaths." An oath of office may be administered by the following, among others: a notary public, a judge, a justice of the peace, a city or town clerk, a city or town mayor, a court commissioner, every judicial officer, every court, a clerk of the court, a county auditor or deputy auditor, or a county legislative authority.

When may the oath of office be given; when do new terms begin? The term of an incumbent ends and the term of the successor begins after the successor is elected and qualified, with the new term beginning on January 1 following the election. The oath of office may be taken up to ten days prior to January 1, or at the last regular meeting of the council or board held before January 1. [RCW 29A.20.040\(3\)](#). The oath may also be taken after January 1.

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