



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
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Patrick Morrissey Inaugurated as 37th Governor



West Virginia Legislative Photography

The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome and congratulate Patrick Morrissey as the state's new governor. An inaugural ceremony took place on Jan. 13, 2025, where Gov. Morrissey was sworn in as West Virginia's 37th governor.

The ceremony was conducted at the State Capitol, with a reception following at the Culture Center and a parade along Kanawha Boulevard. Gov. Morrissey celebrated with family, friends, and members of the public later that evening at the Inaugural Ball at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. The evening

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Householder Appointed Administration Secretary

Eric Householder was appointed Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Administration, effective Jan. 13, 2025. Prior to this role, he served as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2010 to 2024.

Householder held significant leadership positions during his tenure, including serving as House Majority Leader from 2022 to 2024. In this capacity, he worked closely with the House Speaker to implement a cohesive leadership structure and foster strong communication among a historic number of Republican delegates, which facilitated the advancement of key policies aimed at moving



Eric Householder will serve as the Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Administration. Householder was a member of the House of Delegates for 14 years and served as the majority leader from 2022 to 2024.

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SNEAK PEEK

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Capitol Dispensary Available During Legislative Session

The Division of Protective Services would like to remind state employees and those who will visit the Capitol during the Legislative Session that the Capitol Dispensary is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Located in Room 9-A of Building 1, the dispensary is available to assist your medical needs and is operated by registered nurse Elizabeth George, who can provide a variety of over-the-counter pain relievers, as well as medications for colds, allergies, insect bites, and stings. The dispensary also has medications for medical emergencies, such as EpiPens for anaphylaxis and nitroglycerin pills for angina. The dispensary does not maintain antibiotics or provide any other medication that requires a prescription.

To speak with the nurse at the Capitol Dispensary, please call 304-558-3663. If you have a medical emergency outside of the hours of operation, please call 911 or the Capitol Police Command Center at 304-558-5715. The Capitol Dispensary telephone number will also automatically forward to the Capitol Police Command Center if dialed after business hours.

2025 Legislative Calendar and Reminders

Feb. 12: *First day of session*

March 3 (20th Day): *Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due*

March 18 (35th Day): *Last day to introduce bills in the House*

March 24 (41th Day): *Last day to introduce bills in the Senate*

March 30 (47th Day): *Bills due out of committees*

April 2 (50th Day): *Last day to consider bill on third reading*

April 12 (60th Day): *Last day of session*

During the Legislative Session, metered parking around the Capitol is monitored on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding state holidays. A vehicle may be ticketed up to four times per day at an expired parking meter. If using the app to pay, make sure to correctly enter your license plate number to avoid a ticket.

Free visitor lots (7a and 7b) are located on the stadium side of Elizabeth St. at Laidley Field, and the Capitol Shuttle runs from there to the Capitol Complex every 10 to 15 minutes during the hours of 6 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. The shuttle can be requested during down times by calling 304-558-0248. The shuttle does not operate on weekends or state holidays.

For more information, call the Real Estate Division's Parking Section at 304-558-9093.

Employees Encouraged to Learn Legislative Process

With the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature beginning on Feb. 12, 2025, it is important to understand how the legislative process works. It starts with a bill, which basically is an idea for a new law or a change to an existing law. In West Virginia, two groups of elected citizens (34 senators and 100 delegates) study, discuss, and vote on bills. In order to become law, bills must pass both the House of Delegates and the Senate, as well as avoid a governor's veto.

Anyone can propose an idea for a bill to his or her legislator, who must then decide if he/she wishes to sponsor it. If sponsored, the bill is drafted and sent to the clerk of that legislator's chamber. The bill is assigned a number and is directed to a committee to be considered.

When the bill is approved from the committee, the recommendation for that bill is read on the floor of the

House or Senate. The Rules Committee of each chamber then determines which bills will be considered and placed on the calendar. Each bill is read a total of three times. The first time serves as the information stage, the second allows the legislators to vote on amendments, and the third time allows them to vote on the passage of the bill. If a bill is passed by one chamber, it is sent to the other body where the process is repeated.

If changes are made to a bill in the second chamber, it must return to the first chamber for additional review. If the first chamber does not agree with the changes, a conference committee with members of both chambers is assigned to work on the differences. If the committee reaches a compromise, the bill is once again voted on for passage.

After a bill passes both chambers in

the same form, it is sent to the governor. If the Legislature is in session, the governor has five days to approve or veto it. After the Legislature adjourns, the governor has 15 days to act on most bills. If the governor fails to act within these time limits, the bill(s) automatically become law without his signature. After bills are signed, they may not become effective until a later date.

A simple majority vote of the Legislature is needed to override a veto, unless a budget bill is vetoed. In that case, a two-thirds vote of the members of both chambers is needed to successfully override the veto.

To view or track the status of a particular bill, visit <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm> and click on Bill Status.

Aging Chickens at Home with PEIA's Barger

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers had quite an impact on Jennifer Barger. Not the dancing duo, but a pair of chickens, specifically silkies.

Barger was introduced to the chicken breed when she got her first two, Fred and Ginger, 16 years ago. She found them listed for sale in an ad on Craigslist.

"Someone was needing to part with them because they were being bullied by the other chickens," Barger said.

Barger, an insurance assistant 2 with the Public Employees Insurance Agency, now has 12 silkies, and all of them are considered geriatric. The average lifespan of a silkie is eight to nine years. Barger's silkies are 16 to 18 years old.

"They're going to outlive me," she said. "It's like my little retirement village."

The silkie is a Chinese breed of chicken named for its atypically fluffy plumage, which is said to feel like silk and satin. The breed has several other unusual qualities, such as black skin and bones, blue earlobes, and five toes on each foot, whereas most chickens have only four. They are docile and friendly.

"They've worked hard all their lives. Once chickens stop laying eggs, they're not wanted. I pamper and love them," she said, adding that all her hens have gone through "hen"opause.

Barger said her silkies love to be held and are very soft. She feeds them the usual chicken feed and gives them treats that consist of organic grapes, tomatoes, and blueberries.

She has a spacious coop under her porch, which provides them shelter from the snow and wind.

Barger's husband, Ernie, loves them too, and she said they both talk to the silkies.

"I've tried other breeds, but I just love the silkies," she said.

A unique behavior she's noticed in her silkies is that they form cliques.

"You've heard the phrase, birds of a feather. These flock

together by color," she said.

For anyone who might be interested in keeping silkies, Barger said it is important to make sure to build or buy a sturdy predator-proof coop with an attached and enclosed place for them to exercise. She also said to be ready for a commitment that could last many years.

"Get ready to fall in love with these sweet babies," she said. "They're calm, gentle, and loving little birds with great personalities, and who wouldn't want a flock of muppets?"



Jennifer Barger

New Mileage Rate Announced for 2025



In accordance with the West Virginia State Travel Rules, the state's mileage reimbursement rate for privately-owned vehicles has been updated to reflect the federal government rate set by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

As of Jan. 1, 2025, the current GSA rate has increased by three cents per mile to 70 cents. This rate will remain in effect until further notice. Questions regarding the mileage reimbursement rate should be directed to your agency's travel coordinator or Jessica Burns-McDonnell at Jessica.L.BurnsMcdonnell@wv.gov.

Additional travel information is also available online at www.state.wv.us/admin/purchase/Travel.

Two State Directories Help Employees and Public Locate Contacts and Find Information

Visitors to the state's website at wv.gov have access to two different state directories. Each guide is designed to be updated by the individual agency to ensure information remains accurate and accessible for those seeking contact information.

The first directory is a PDF directory located under the "Government" tab at wv.gov. This directory is revised and updated each month at www.wv.gov/Documents/StateGovernmentDirectory.pdf. Each department has a designated contact person who is responsible for making the changes for their department's information. Changes to the Department of Administration's agencies can be sent to Purchasing.Training@wv.gov.

The second listing on wv.gov is the Phone Directory, which can also be accessed under the "Government" tab.

The data that populates this directory comes from *wvOASIS* or inputs made by West Virginia Interactive. The human resources staff member within each department or agency is responsible for making these updates. Alternatively, updates can be submitted directly to West Virginia Interactive if the information cannot be collected via *wvOASIS*. The *wv.gov* phone directory can be found online at www.wv.gov/pages/state-phone-directory.aspx.

Please note that the accuracy of the information is dependent upon the employees who are responsible for making the updates. If your department or agency contact has not done so recently, they are encouraged to review the contact information currently listed and monitor each month for changes or updates to that information.

HOUSEHOLDER

Continued from Page 1

West Virginia forward.

From 2019 to 2022, Householder chaired the House Finance Committee, where he played a pivotal role in managing the state's budget, which saw a surplus exceeding \$3 billion. His leadership ensured the effective allocation of resources to meet the state's priorities, while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Householder's legislative accomplishments also entailed spearheading historic income tax reform, which included implementing record-breaking tax cuts totaling \$800 million, and working toward the eventual elimination of the state's personal income tax. Additionally, he led efforts to pass significant labor reforms, including repealing prevailing wage requirements and making West Virginia a right-to-work state.

Householder earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Shepherd College and an MBA from Frostburg University. In addition to his political career, he is a small business owner.

MORRISEY

Continued from Page 1

event included dinner, fireworks, and a celebration concert by The Marshall Tucker Band and Shenendoah.

During his inaugural address, the governor said taking the oath of office is more than a ceremonial gesture.

"It's a promise to fight every day to help West Virginia reach her potential," the governor said. "And every West Virginian will have an important role to play in building this amazing and prosperous state.

"So let's be bold. Let's be courageous. And let's move forward together," he continued. "Our state is going to stand as an example for the nation. We are going to rise."



West Virginia Legislative Photography

On Jan. 13, 2025, Patrick Morrisey was sworn in as the 37th governor of the state of West Virginia. Following the inauguration ceremony, he celebrated with a reception at the West Virginia Culture Center and a parade down Kanawha Boulevard.

Employees Reminded of Inclement Weather Policy

There are still several weeks of winter weather ahead, so employees should review the Division of Personnel's policy on inclement weather conditions (ES/IWC) if their agency does not have its own policy.

All state employees are expected to report to work as scheduled during ES/IWC unless otherwise instructed. If an employee cannot report to work due to weather and/or road conditions, he or she must use annual leave, accrued comp time, or an unpaid leave of absence. However, employees and their direct supervisor may establish a plan to allow for the employee to work from home or an alternate work location in place of the annual leave/comp time/leave of absence requirement. Employees may be able to make up time lost within the same workweek if they have approval to do so from their immediate supervisor. Comparable time off will not be provided to employees who choose to work as scheduled during an ES/IWC.

In situations where the workplace or office building is closed due to an ES/IWC, the Cabinet Secretary of that agency or his or her spokesperson will direct employees to work from home, report to an alternate work location, or remain in restricted on-call status until the workplace is reopened. Employees should not be placed in restricted on-call status unless it is anticipated they will return to the normal work location during that scheduled workday.

The governor has final authority to provide personnel directives during an ES/IWC by proclamation or other orders. Please note that a "State of Emergency" does not necessarily mean your state office is closed. Contact your supervisor to see if your workplace or office is affected.

To view the entire ES/IWC policy, please visit <https://personnel.wv.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/Policies/Emergency.PDF>. The DOP also provides a FAQ document for reference at <https://personnel.wv.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/Policies/FAQ%20Emg%20Situations%2011-25-14.pdf>.

Capitol Grounds a Winter Wonderland



West Virginia Legislative Photography

Employee Question of the Month

Thank you to all Department of Administration employees who continue to participate in our Employee Question of the Month. This month, we asked "What song or lyric do you

- Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
- The Future's So Bright (I Gotta Wear Shades)
- Only worry in the world is the tide gonna reach my chair?
- What a Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong
- Oh I am blessed. Every day of my life I am blessed.
- I'm going to make it through this year if it kills me
- Imagine - John Lennon
- All Others are Sinking Sand

hope will best describe your 2025?" Below are the responses we received.

- We're Not Gonna Take It by Twister Sister
- All the Way My Savior Leads Me - Fanny Crosby
- Let It Be - Beatles
- We are in the money
- Walking on Sunshine
- Changes Coming On - Alabama
- Go With the Flow by Queens of the Stone Age
- Boss up and change your life. You can have it all, no sacrifice.

WVOT Implements Password Changes

The West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) has implemented a new password policy that requires network passwords to be at least 14 characters long. This change is part of the agency’s ongoing commitment to enhancing security and protecting systems.

The new requirements will apply the next time you need to change your password, such as when your current password expires. Changing passwords can feel challenging, but these tips can help:

- **Use a Passphrase:** Combine words, numbers, and symbols into something memorable. For example, use “I_Love-3Cats!”
- **Build a Sentence:** Take a sentence and use the first letter of each word, mixing in numbers and symbols. For example, use “I walk my dog every morning!” becomes “Iwmдем@2025!”.
- **Blend Ideas:** Combine two unrelated ideas, like hobbies or favorite places, with a twist. Here is an example: “SoccerFan&P@ris2025!”

Additionally, all users are encouraged to complete the Self-Service Password Reset (SSPR) registration process if they haven’t already. The SSPR tool makes it easier to manage future password changes independently. Instructions for completing your registration can be found [here](#).

Please familiarize yourself with the new policy and consider updating your password early if convenient.

Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Hannah Spaulding, Rhea Smith, and Heather Holtsclaw** (CPRB); **Chad Turley, Zachary Price, Anthony Smith, and Lorne Morris** (General Services); **Thomas Ball, Mason Stepp, Mark Gregory, Troy Stanley, and Dakota Cheatwood** (Technology); and **Jessica Carl and Angelina Villanueva** (Purchasing). **Jacob Welch** transferred from Technology to CPRB.

Best Wishes ... to **Brian Cunningham** (PEIA) and **Bryan Gantzer** (Technology), who recently resigned from our department.

Happy Retirement! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Patty Johns** (Finance) the very best during her retirement.

Holidays ... West Virginia state government will be closed on Feb. 17, 2025, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Our Condolences ... The Department of Administration is saddened to note the losses of **Melissa Pettrey** (Purchasing) and **Mike Stone** (General Services), who passed away recently.

Department Fact Sheets ... The 2025 Agency Information Fact Sheets are now online at <https://administration.wv.gov> under “Agencies.”

W-2s Now Online ... West Virginia state employees can view and print their W-2s for the 2024 calendar year electronically by going to www.wvsao.gov or wvOASIS.gov.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in FEBRUARY

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of February:

BRIM	Valerie Poindexter	Gary Goble
CPRB	Lindsey Atkins	Chad Proctor
	Alyssa Cooper	Tracy Richardson
	Amber Hawkins	Pub.Def.Srvs. Lisa Conley
	Joshua Hudnall	Brooke Pittman
	Ashley Knapp	Purchasing Bob Ross
	Nathan Moul	Jason Thompson
	Victoria Sutton	Nicholas Downs
Ethics	Rachel Carpenter	Real Estate Misty Corsaro
Finance	Marjorie Stephenson	Ronald Pleasant
Fleet	Chena Hill	Andrew Sabatino
Gen.Srvs.	Nicole Adkins	WVOT Betsy Allen
	Stephen Pinkerton	Christopher Bailey
Grievance	Candace Spade	Ethan Boley
PEIA	Lisa Conley	Michael Ebert
	Kelly Davis	Matthew Fenney
	Crystal Edens	Carlos Kinder
	Katrina Hamdan	Chaz Pittman
	Amelia Sizemore	Tony Riley
Personnel	Kara Anderson	Adam Robinson
	James Bateman	

Administrative Notes

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