

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

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Gov. Patrick Morrisey Delivers First State of the State Address

West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey presented his first State of the State address on Feb. 13, 2025, during which he announced his Mountain State Comeback Budget, a balanced budget which represents a down payment on a multiyear plan to solve the state's financial challenges.

In mentioning the state's financial situation, Morrisey addressed the \$400 million deficit his administration projects in the budget year beginning July 1, 2025. He estimated that the deficit could grow up to \$600 million annually after 2027 if not addressed.

"We have hired a chief financial officer who will manage audits and performance reviews, find savings, and look for improvements across all parts of government," he said.

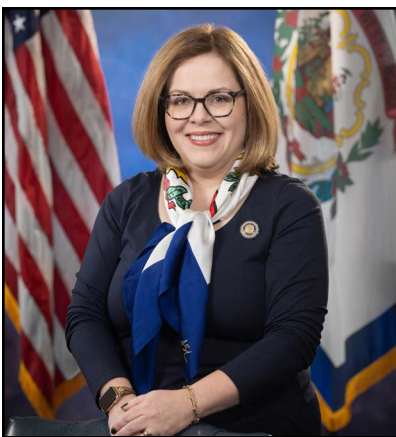
In the past 30 days, the governor has proposed consolidating three departments and will soon work to eliminate many unnecessary boards and commissions. The Department of Homeland Security will merge



West Virginia Legislative Photography

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Jones Named Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Department of Administration



Sara DeBarr Jones was appointed deputy cabinet secretary for the Department of Administration in February 2025. Prior to this role, Jones served as the senior policy analyst and budget analyst for the West Virginia House of Delegates' Committee on Finance, and before that, as a legislative research analyst for various other House committees for more than 25 years. During her tenure, Jones has worked with numerous legislators, legisla-

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West Virginia State Agency
for Surplus Property
WVSurplus.gov

Need office furniture? We've got you covered!

The Building 4 renovation on the Capitol Campus is nearing completion, and we're stocking our warehouse with items from agencies making the big move. That means you'll be able to find some great deals!

You can also check out our online auction site, GovDeals, for more!
<https://www.govdeals.com/west-virginia>

Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(Closed on State and Federal Holidays)
2700 Charles Avenue, Dunbar, WV 25064

SNEAK PEEK

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2025 West Virginia Vacation Guide Now Available

The 2025 West Virginia Vacation Guide, the state's official travel magazine, is now available for order. Packed full of stunning imagery and hidden gems, this guide makes the perfect tool for travelers to plan their 2025 getaway to the Mountain State. Travelers can request a free copy of the new guide online to be sent to their doorstep or pick up a copy at one of the state's welcome centers.

"This guide tells the story of West Virginia," said Gov. Patrick Morrisey. "It highlights our natural beauty, growing recreational opportunities and thriving towns filled with local businesses. I encourage everyone to get a copy and discover for themselves what makes West Virginia the shining state in the mountains."

Organized by experiences, the new guide highlights ways to explore the outdoors, experience mountain culture, escape and unwind. It also gives insider tips on Appalachian eats, Almost Heaven swing locations and how to best enjoy West Virginia in each of the four seasons. From extraordinary overnight stays and historic hubs to natural wonders and thrilling adventures, the new vacation guide uncovers the abundance of activities awaiting in West Virginia.

"The 2025 guide will inspire you to spend your vacation days in Almost Heaven," said Department of Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby. "Whether you're a traveler planning to visit for the very first time or a local looking for new ways to experience every corner of the state, this guide showcases all the unique and amazing experiences awaiting you. So bring along the entire family and all your friends - we can't wait to welcome you to West Virginia!"

The 2025 Vacation Guide was produced in partnership



West Virginia's 2025 travel magazine is now available. Travelers can request a free copy to be mailed to them or pick up a copy at any of the state's welcome centers.

with Dotdash Meredith, a leading publisher producing Southern Living, Real Simple, and Parents magazines. By partnering with Dotdash, the new guide will accompany 100,000 Travel + Leisure magazines and be mailed to West Virginia's target markets to encourage travel to the Mountain State. Last year alone, the West Virginia Department of Tourism distributed over a quarter of a million printed guides to travelers across the nation and around the world.

To request your free copy of the Vacation Guide, click [here](#). To access a digital version of the guide, click [here](#).

How to Track Bills During Legislative Session

The legislative session is in full swing and representatives in both chambers are busy pushing bills through various committees. Many agencies and state employees are watching to see if

bills are passed that could potentially affect their processes and daily tasks, as well as those dealing with insurance, retirement, other aspects of employment, and even their personal lives.

Individuals can easily track bills that are of interest to them by visiting the Legislature's website at www.wvlegislature.gov and clicking on the Bill Status tab at the top of the page. A dropdown menu will give two options: Bill Status or Bill Tracking.

Choosing Bill Status allows users to view all bills introduced in each chamber or to search for them by number, subject, short title, sponsor, or date introduced. Bill Tracking requires the user to set up an account with a username and password. Then, by clicking on the Add Bills/Lists tab, the user can create multiple lists with unique names and add bills accordingly.

To check the progress of bills on each list, the user simply needs to click on the My List tab under Bill Tracking, and click on the list name. The latest activity for each bill will populate.

Anyone needing technical assistance can click the Contact tab on the home page.



New Directors Appointed to Serve in Department of Administration Agencies

Three new directors have been appointed to lead Department of Administration agencies.

Bob Kilpatrick was promoted to director of the General Services Division (GSD) in January 2025 after serving as deputy director. A Charleston native, he attended West Virginia University and West Virginia State University until starting his career in procurement with the Department of Administration in 1995. He has been part of the GSD in various roles since 1998.

“I owe this accomplishment to a countless number of employees within and outside the agency, because without their support and assistance it would not have been possible,” Kilpatrick said. “I look forward to repaying that with what I hope will be proactive, diligent, and reliable leadership, as the GSD constantly improves in how it delivers upon its mission. As I always have, I will continue to do everything I can to make the GSD and the Department of Administration better.”

Jim Samples was appointed executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Institute in December 2024. Prior to this appointment, Samples served as the Clay County prosecutor for 19 years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in economics/finance from Marshall University and a law degree from Regent University School of Law.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve West Virginia and its citizens,” Samples said. “I look forward to working alongside our dedicated team to further our mission of provid-

ing training, service, support, and resources to prosecutors, staff, and law enforcement.”

Shawn Coleman has been leading the Aviation Division since September 2024. His aviation career began in 1991 when he enlisted in the West Virginia Army National Guard. He served in the Guard for 12 years as a UH-1 Huey helicopter mechanic, crew chief, door gunner, maintenance team leader, maintenance technical inspector, and section sergeant. He joined the State Police in 1994, where he served as a pilot, flight instructor, night vision goggle flight instructor, and the director of the State Police Aviation Division. After retiring in 2023, he began flying helicopters for a utility company.

“I am both honored and humbled by this opportunity to be trusted with the state’s aviation fleet and personnel,” Coleman said. “The Aviation Division has a solid fleet of aircraft and an amazing staff, all of whom are dedicated to safety and service to the citizens of this great state.”

Welcome Directors Coleman and Samples to the Department of Administration, and congratulations to Kilpatrick on his promotion!



The Department welcomes PAI Director Jim Samples (top), GSD Director Bob Kilpatrick (middle), and Aviation Director Shawn Coleman (bottom) to their new positions.

Administration Agencies Invited to Participate in Annual Governor’s Internship Program

West Virginia state agencies are encouraged to consider hosting an intern this summer through the 2025 Governor’s Internship Program.

Agencies interested in becoming a host for the Governor’s Internship Program must have a staff member apply at www.intern.wv.gov. Once they have applied, they will get access to a database of college students who have a 3.0+ GPA, have completed at least one year of undergraduate study, and are West Virginia residents attending a college/university in or out of state. Host agencies will be responsible for interviewing and selecting their own intern(s). This process ensures that each agency can select an intern whose skills best fit the needs of the position and the agency.

Host agencies must pay interns at least minimum wage and assign them meaningful work related to their field of study. Interns generally work for nine to 13 weeks throughout the summer. Nonprofit organizations and private businesses may host interns as well.

During the summer of 2024, the Department of Administration hosted three interns through this program. A recap of the interns’ experiences can be seen in the July 2024 issue of *Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes*. More information can be found at www.intern.wv.gov. Questions regarding the program or the application process can be directed to Andrea Thompson at 304-558-0220 or Andrea.D.Thompson@wv.gov, or Mary Jane Ayoob at MaryJane.Ayoob@wv.gov or 304-414-0868.

MORRISEY

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with the Adjutant General's Office, the Department of Commerce will merge with the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Tourism will merge with the Department of Arts, Culture and History.

The governor also said his budget grows the Public Employees Insurance Agency by nearly \$45 million so the state can meet its legal obligations.

"Our budget will not propose new ongoing programs without new ongoing revenue," he added. "We plan on over 2% of general revenue budget reductions and many other changes to bring our budget to balance and to protect taxpayers as we go after waste, abuse, and overspending in the system."

Early in his address, Gov. Morrisey talked about his visits to American Legion Boys State, where he spoke each year as the state's attorney general. He said he would always ask the attendees how many thought they would be able to find a job in West Virginia, and not many would raise their hands.

"This is heartbreaking. If four out of five of these kids feel they need to leave the state to find a job, that's not acceptable," he said. "We're only going to know we are successful as a state when every one of the kids raises their hands."

"I'm announcing a new strategic investment. We will establish the WV Power Tech Center, powering our workforce through energy and supporting the state's educational institutions who train the future workforce."

The State of the State address can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

Legislative Calendar and Reminders

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*

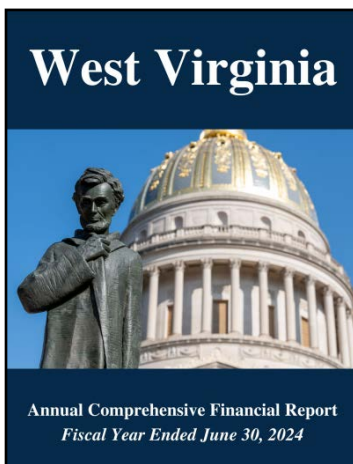
April 12 (60th Day): *Last day of session*

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.

Finance Division Completes Annual Comprehensive Fiscal Report, Turns Attention to Single Audit



Since 1992, West Virginia has completed an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), and since 1995, the state has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Governments that participate in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting must submit their ACFR within six months of

the fiscal year end. For West Virginia, that means Dec. 31. West Virginia submitted its Fiscal Year 2024 ACFR on Dec. 13, 2024.

To produce the ACFR, the Financial Accounting and Re-

porting Section (FARS) of the Finance Division gathers information from all areas of state government, including departments, state agencies, and boards and commissions. West Virginia has approximately 27 component units and enterprise funds that are required to submit audited financial statements based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. For agencies not audited, work papers are prepared from information gathered in the form of "closing book forms." In Fiscal Year 2024, the FARS used 20 closing forms that were completed by approximately 60 state agencies.

West Virginia also files a Single Audit report each year, and has since 1986. The Single Audit allows the federal government to verify that the state expends federal monies in a proper manner. For Fiscal Year 2024, West Virginia received more than 538 individual grant awards, with approximately 23 major federal programs. These grants were received from 29 different federal grantor agencies. The Single Audit report must be submitted within nine months of year end, or March 31, 2025, for the state.

Agencies Moving into Building 4

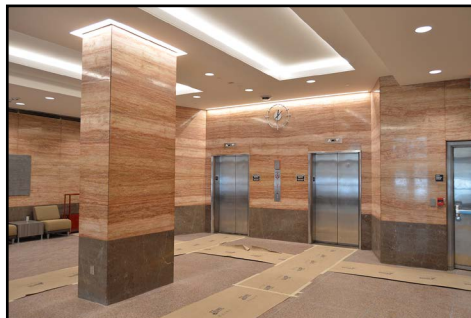
The renovation of Building 4, at the corner of California Avenue and Washington Street East, is now substantially complete. The first tenants, the General Services Division (GSD) and the Insurance Commission, moved into the building last month.

Contractor Swope Construction started the renovation of the eight-floor building in October 2022. The renovations were designed by the architectural firm Perfidio Weiskopf Wagstaff and Goettel. It is now a fully occupiable and code-compliant office building housing multiple state agencies. The remaining tenants, including Public Defender Services and the Office of Tax Appeals, are expected to move in this month, followed by

the Division of Natural Resources in April 2025.

“The building has undergone a complete renovation of its interior finishes as well as the mechanical, plumbing and electrical infrastructure,” said Kari Westfall, construction project manager for the Architecture and Engineering Section of the GSD. “While retaining certain historic features, such as the marble wall panels and terrazzo flooring in the lobby, the building has all new energy efficient lighting and a state-of-the-art multipurpose training room, among other modern amenities.”

“We are happy to welcome some new tenants to the new Building 4,” said GSD Director Bob Kilpatrick.



Employee Question of the Month: Rainforest or Ocean?

Thank you to all Department of Administration employees who continue to participate in our *Question of the Month*. This month, we asked “Would you rather be stranded in the middle of the Amazon rainforest or in the middle of the ocean?” Below are some responses we received, and overwhelmingly, the rainforest seemed a less scary place to be.

- The rainforest. There would be ways to get food and make a shelter. I am also terrified of water, and burn easily, so I wouldn't survive long in the middle of the ocean. I may also get a chance to see some beautiful exotic animals before I'm taken out.
- Rainforest. I could make shelter and find food. Besides, I can't swim.
- Since I can't swim, I suppose I'd pick the rainforest. I love the ocean but there are too many storms to be stranded.
- I will probably die in both scenarios, but I can't really swim, so I guess rainforest.
- Rainforest - better chance of survival
- I'd probably go with the Amazon rainforest. Yeah, it's got its dangers—like creepy crawlers and all that—but at least you might find some water and shelter. Plus, you can move around and maybe stumble across something useful. The ocean, though? No thanks. Just endless water and nothing around. I'd be freaking out the whole time!
- Amazon rainforest. At least there will be fresh water and things that are edible!
- In the middle of the ocean if I have a boat.

JONES

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tive staff, agencies, and policy stakeholders in the development of legislation, budgets, and policies. She was a Burks-Rollins Scholar for the West Virginia Legislature in 1998.

A native of Buckhannon, W.Va., Jones graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1996 with a dual major in history and political science. She received a master's degree in public administration from West Virginia University in 1998, and most recently, a management certificate from West Virginia State University in 2024. Jones has two sons, Jarrett and Andrew.

Welcome to the Department of Administration!

Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Alexandria Ashley** and **Kimberly Bentley** (Grievance); **Sara Jones** (Cabinet Secretary's Office), **Monica Knight** (Technology), and **Sherman Biniza** (PEIA).

Best Wishes ... to **Tiffany Rucker** (CPRB) and **Dillon Rose** (General Services), who recently resigned from our department.

Happy Retirement! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **John McHugh** (General Services) and **Cindy Smith** (Technology) the very best during their retirements.

Question of the Month ... Thank you to all of the individuals who continue to participate in our Employee Question of the Month. This month we want to know... **"What is the funniest April Fools prank anyone has ever played on you?"** To answer this question, visit bit.ly/43iI2Ai.

Got News? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

Administrative Notes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in MARCH

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

BRIM	Mischa Difilippo Jeremy Wolfe	PEIA	Jason Haught Cathleen Hearnshaw
CPRB	James Adkins Christopher Boggess Lori Cottrill Heather Holtsclaw Brittani Huffman Kimberly McCormick Cheryl Pickens Tony Pocrnich Lisa Scarberry	Personnel	Jenny Manhart Lisa Newell Erika Smith Michael Smith Sharon Withrow Marina Mack Sheryl Webb
Finance	Cheryl Garner Robert Tanner Robert Worledge	Pub.Def.	Gary Collias
Gen.Srvs.	Daniel Ball John Brown Billy Clark Chanton Claybrooks Robert Hovatter Timothy Moore Michael Phelix Aaron Rollins	Purchasing	Crystal Hustedad Tara Lyle Alisha Pettit
Grievance	Billie Catlett	Real Estate	Richard Rach
		Sec.Admin	Misty Peal
		Surplus	Jessica McDonnell Jason Hays
		WVOT	John Daniels Barbara Fields Charlene Good William Hargus Sandra Henson George Muncey Crystal Nichols Riken Nowlin Sandra Shaffer Daniel Ziesmer



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes is published by the West Virginia Department of Administration

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west virginia
DIVISION OF PERSONNEL

will be participating
in the

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

hosted by



**Wednesday,
March 5
1 - 3:30 p.m.**

To register,
click here or visit
bit.ly/41jrSDM