

Office of the Governor

Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Office of the Governor of Wyoming is to provide leadership that builds trust through service, accountability and cooperation.

The philosophy of the governor is that public service is a public trust.

Therefore, the office believes in personal responsibility, professionalism, high ethics and honesty, requiring accountability, efficiency and respect.

The role of the governor's office is to provide opportunity through partnerships to meet the needs of Wyoming, today and tomorrow.

Results of outcomes

Outcome 1: The governor's office will administer the executive branch of government consistent with the Wyoming Constitution, state statutes and functional goals of state government.

The functional goals are:

- **education:** to provide an opportunity for people to obtain skills, to develop intellect, to experience art, and to develop a greater appreciation of the state's cultural resources;
- **regulatory and economic development:** to provide a business-friendly regulatory environment where the health and safety of people are ensured, consumers protected, and goods and services made reasonably available;
- **natural resources:** to protect Wyoming's environment and ensure wise, sustainable use of its natural resources;
- **health:** to protect and enhance the health and well being of Wyoming residents;
- **human services:** to foster the development of responsible, productive and self-sufficient people, and to assist persons when they are unable to provide for themselves;
- **transportation:** to expand and enhance Wyoming's transportation system to provide reasonable access and availability to Wyoming people wherever they reside or wherever in Wyoming they do business;
- **public safety and corrections:** to ensure the safety of Wyoming residents and Wyoming communities; and
- **general government:** to operate the state and local governments responsibly, effectively and efficiently in an open, ethical and accountable manner.

Outcome 2: The governor's office will provide efficient, cost-effective service, ensure accountability

General information

Gov. Jim Geringer

Agency contact

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Year established

1890

Statutory reference

W.S. 9-1-201

Number of authorized employees

16 full-time

Clients served

Residents of Wyoming

Budget information

July 1 balance:

\$968,598.95

and promote cooperation in carrying out the duties of the office.

Education

The governor was selected to lead a panel of national policymakers discussing quality teaching at the Education Commission of the States (ECS) Minneapolis meeting. In early July, ECS released the report, ***“In Pursuit of Quality Teaching: Five Key Strategies for Policymakers,”*** as a culmination of the governor’s work as ECS chair the preceding year.

The governor continued as a member of the National Commission on Mathematics and Science (The Glenn Commission) in an effort to produce strategies to raise the quality of math and science teaching and student achievement. The commission consists of 32 leaders in business, education and government.

The governor participated in several meetings with President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney regarding education reform and was pleased to report the deep commitment of the administration to listening to the voice of the states.

January 2001, brought the completion of fiber optic links for Cody and Gillette.

The governor was named chair-elect of the National Education Goals Panel for 2002. President Bush created the panel as a bipartisan membership of federal and state officials.

Technology

The governor announced in early July 2000, that the Wyoming Department of Employment (WDOE) was launching unemployment insurance claims filing on the Internet for all Wyoming residents.

Economic development

Ending the governor’s Coal-bed Methane Information Forum in Casper in mid-July, came the announcement that Wyoming’s five conservation districts and five counties (Campbell, Johnson, Sheridan, Converse and Carbon) would join as partners under the umbrella of the state’s cooperating agency status with the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the development of the Powder River Environmental Impact Statement. The partnership represented a first of state and local governments teaming up to share cooperating agency status.

The governor presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, committee on resources, subcommittee on energy and mineral resources and to Rep Barbara Cubin, chair.

The testimony was in regard to H.B. 4297 and promoted responsible development of the Powder River Basin.

The governor was selected to serve on President Bush’s transition team for the U.S. Department of Commerce, joining 30 prominent business leaders throughout the country.

The governor participated in an emergency energy roundtable in January 2001. Emergency short-term conservation measures were needed to free up electricity supplies to avert shortages in many states and mitigate future higher energy prices.

Agriculture, natural resources

The governor formed a Drought Management Task Force to coordinate drought assistance requests and responses by state and federal agencies. The act was proactive in nature, anticipating conditions and being prepared to respond.

The governor initiated a first-time bipartisan partnership in September to address the fire situation. Western governors and the secretaries of agriculture and the interior worked together to develop solutions to the devastation from the year’s wildfires and work out long-term efforts to reduce risks.

The governor addressed the National Water Policy Forum meeting in Chicago in September on the environmental doctrine, Enlibra. The nation’s water policy leaders heard about Enlibra’s mission to develop policies that protect the heritage and the traditions of the country, particularly the west, and still allow the kind of development that will maintain the region’s extraordinary quality of life. The governor emphasized that “beltway” driven mandates and orders are not working, and that working together at the most local level will improve management of natural resources.

The governor testified before the U.S. House Committee on resources in March, in favor of increasing access to energy development through the formation of federal, state and local partnerships. The governor also reiterated the lack of a current coherent federal energy policy, stating that during the past decade, management has been by litigation and intimidation.

The governor gave strong testimony on what is needed for a successful energy policy.

In March, Geringer was pleased to release the details of the water settlement between Nebraska and Wyoming, following a long-standing dispute.

Quality of life

The governor announced in August 2000, the formation of an agreement between the University of Wyoming and state agencies to develop a Wyoming Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center to research issues related specifically to the criminal justice area. The center will give agencies access to data to make more informed policy decisions.

The governor urged Wyoming retailers to support the program “Helping Kids! Helping Parents! Helping Communities!” The program fights to reduce underage tobacco use.

Wyoming presents statues

A special privilege was accorded the governor in September as the Chief Washakie statue was

presented by Wyoming to the Statuary Hall in the nation's Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Wyoming's two presentations are now complete, the first being the statue of Esther Hobart Morris. During the legislative session, Wyoming's Capitol became the temporary exhibit place for the second of three of the statues. The third resides at Ft. Washakie.

The governor was pleased to welcome home to Wyoming an Afton native, Rulon Gardner, who stunned audiences at the 2000 Summer Olympics with an amazing upset in the Greco-Roman wrestling event and winning the gold medal. It was a great day for Wyoming and its governor.

The governor announced March 20, 2001, that Wyoming had filed in federal district court the support of the lawsuit opposing efforts to close Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks to snowmobile use. The state's case named violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedures Act rulemaking. Announced in June, was a settlement agreement, which reopens the environmental impact statement process to consider additional information on the impact of snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

In May, the governor signed an executive order implementing a Workplace Violence Policy.

Legislative

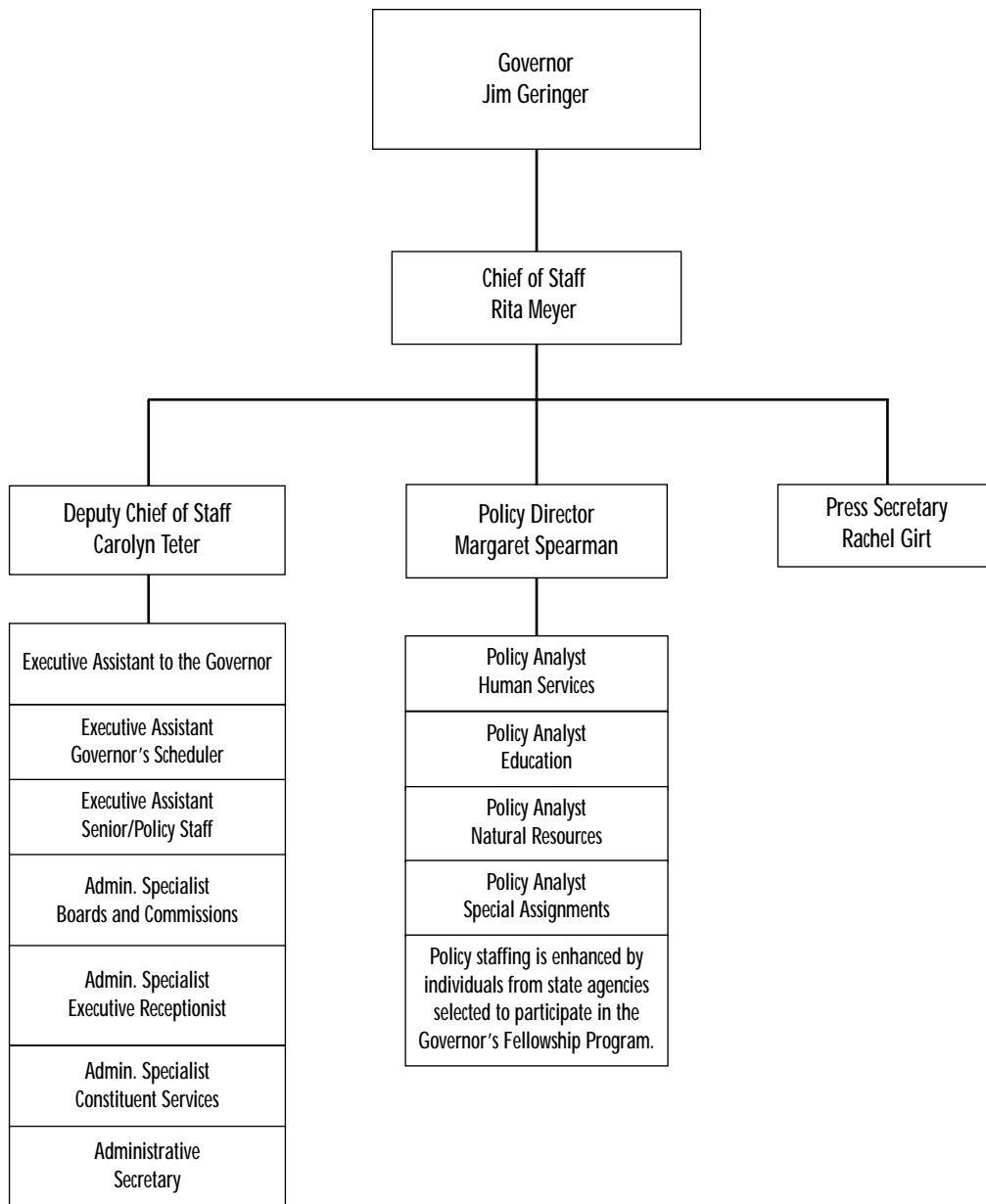
The governor allowed the "Budget Bill" to become law without his signature, naming two specific reasons.

The first was that it was not a budget session of the Legislature, and he had not completed the full review of all state needs or a comprehensive ranking of program priorities; second was the uncertainty introduced by the Wyoming Supreme Court's decision regarding school funding. The governor gave detailed explanation of his concerns in his letter to Wyoming House Speaker Rick Tempest and Wyoming Senate President Hank Coe.

Added to these highlights is the day-to-day administration of the governor's office with appointments to boards and commissions. This past year, there were several appointments to the various judgeships; response to heavy email, phone and mail constituent contacts; issuing of proclamations and attendant photo opportunities; the governor's appearances around the state to give speeches and participate in various meetings; weekly press conferences; daily meetings in the governor's office; and cabinet and sub-cabinet meetings.

This year the sub-cabinet on governance was added.

Agency Name organization chart



Governor's Residence

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Governor's Residence is a state-owned building, which serves as a private home for Governor Jim Geringer and his family, and serves as the primary site for most of the official functions that Governor and Mrs. Geringer conduct on behalf of Wyoming.

Because the Wyoming Governor's Residence is a semi-public building, it also serves the state by providing a place to display Wyoming's history, art, antiques and artifacts.

The primary role of the Wyoming Governor's Residence is to provide the governor and his family with a safe, comfortable, family home during his tenure as the governor. The Wyoming Governor's Residence is the only place where privacy is available to the governor and his family.

Public role

The public role of the Wyoming Governor's Residence provides the people of Wyoming with a visible symbol of state history and culture. Official functions include entertaining legislators and their spouses, Wyoming Supreme Court justices, elected officials, visiting government and business officials, and state and foreign dignitaries.

Public functions include activities such as public tours and educational tours for students and receptions.

Results of outcomes

To protect the privacy of Wyoming's First Family and to provide for a normal life while they live at the Wyoming Governor's Residence, the work of all staff (governor's residence and other agency staff) must be scheduled with the Wyoming Governor's Residence manager, who is Wyoming's First Lady Sherri Geringer's assistant.

With the assistance of the Wyoming State Museum volunteers, 21 open houses and individually scheduled tours were conducted.

Other opportunities for the public to visit the governor's residence included receptions, meetings, luncheons and dinners.

Approximately 3,400 people visited the Wyoming Governor's Residence during the time period July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001.

General information

Wyoming's First Lady Sherri Geringer

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Year established

1901

Statutory references

W.S. 9-1-213 and 9-5-103

Number of authorized personnel

Two full-time, two part-time

Clients served

Governor and Mrs. Jim Geringer and members of the family, federal, state and local elected leaders, foreign dignitaries, business officials, Wyoming residents and visitors to Wyoming

Budget information

General fund **\$156,167**

Governor's Residence organization chart

