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Minister-President

The Bavarian Minister-President appoints the members of the State Government subject to the approval of the Landtag (Bavarian State Parliament), heads the State Government and represents Bavaria externally. He also performs numerous representative duties.

Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, was first sworn in as Bavarian Minister-President on 16 March 2018 and again on 6 November 2018. On 31 October 2023, Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, was re-elected and sworn in as Bavarian Minister President.

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Curriculum vitae



Portrait: Dr. Markus Söder, MdL

Born on 5 January 1967 in Nuremberg, married, four children

1987 - 1991

Studied Law in Erlangen, State Examination in Law, scholarship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Scientific Assistant at the Chair of Ecclesiastical, Constitutional and Administrative Law

1992 - 1993

Traineeship with the Bayerischer Rundfunk broadcasting corporation, then editor at Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR)

1998

Doctor's degree from Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen/Nuremberg

Since 1983

Member of the CSU (Christian Social Union) and the JU (CSU Youth Organisation)

Since 1994

Member of the Landtag (Bavarian State Parliament - MdL)

1995 - 2003

Chairman of the Bavarian JU Member of the CSU Presidium

1997 - 2008

Chairman of the CSU Nuremberg-West

2000 - 2011

Chairman of the CSU Media Commission

2003 - 2007

Secretary-General of the CSU

2007 - 2008

Bavarian State Minister for Federal and European Affairs in the Bavarian State Chancellery

2008 - 2018

Chairman of the CSU District Section Nuremberg-Fürth-Schwabach

2008 - 2011

Bavarian State Minister of the Environment and Public Health

2011 - 2013

Bavarian State Minister of Finance

2013 - 2018

Bavarian State Minister of Finance, Regional Development and Regional Identity

Since 16 March 2018

Bavarian Minister-President

Since 19 January 2019

Chairman of the Christian Social Union in Bavaria (CSU)

Portrait

**Portrait: Minister-
President Dr. Markus
Söder, MdL**

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan Province with a welcome gift: a cuddly toy of the famous panda lady "Blume Blume".



On the occasion of the 60th Munich Security Conference, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder welcomed the Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris, at Munich Airport on 15 February 2024.



On 6 February 2024, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder presented the Director of the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics in Garching and Nobel Prize winner for Physics, Prof. Dr Ferenc Krausz, with the Bavarian Maximilian Order for Science and Art at the State Chancellery.



On 14 December 2023, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder met the Israeli President Yitzhak Herzog for talks.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder visited the Nir Oz kibbutz in the border area with the Gaza Strip on 14 December 2023.



On 14 December 2024, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder (left) and State Parliament President Ilse Aigner (right) after being sworn in as Bavarian Minister President on 31 October 2023.



Together with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder opened the IAA Mobility 2023 in Munich on September 5.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder in conversation with alpine farmers at the 76th main alpine pasture inspection on August 2, 2023.



Thomas Gottschalk was awarded the Bavarian Order of Maximilian for Science and Art by Minister-President Dr Markus Söder on 26 July 2023.



Former German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at the opening of the Richard Wagner Festival 2023 in Bayreuth on 25 July 2023.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder attended the opening of the Bavarian State Garden Show in Freyung on 25 May 2023.



On 7 May 2023, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder took part as "patron" in the patronage day of the "Bund der Bayerischen Gebirgsschützen-Kompanien" at the Volksfestplatz in Gmund am Tegernsee.



On 19 April 2023, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder awarded honorary men and women from Upper Bavaria, Lower Bavaria and Swabia with the Bavarian Minister-President's Medal of Honour for Services to Voluntary Work.

„I have always said that the office of Bavarian Minister-President is the finest position in the world.“

Franz Josef Strauß, late Bavarian Minister-President.

Position and duties

As head of government, the Minister-President presides over the Bavarian State Government. He shall determine the policy guidelines and shall be accountable for them to the Landtag (Bavarian State Parliament). His guidelines shall be binding on all members of the State Government. He shall moreover strive to ensure a consistent administration of proceedings in all departments and resolve conflicts of competence between ministers of state in line with the allocation of responsibilities established by the Bavarian State Government. In addition, he shall be responsible for reviewing the laws adopted by the Landtag for conformity with the constitution, and for their drafting and publication. He may conclude state treaties, subject to the prior consent of the Landtag.

As Head of State and first representative of the State of Bavaria he represents Bavaria externally, especially to the Federal Government, the other federal states and international partners.

The Minister-President's official seat of office is the [Bavarian State Chancellery](#) next to Munich's Hofgarten. This is where cabinet meetings are held on a regular basis.

The Minister-President is elected by the Bavarian Landtag for a five-year term. Any citizen who is entitled to vote in the Bavarian parliamentary elections and has attained the age of 40 is eligible for election.

In Bavaria, the office of Minister-President was established by the Constitution of 14 August 1919 and renewed by the Constitution of 2 December 1946. The introduction of the office of premier had already been considered as early as the time of Elector Max Emanuel (1662-1726).

Since the end of the Nazi regime and the reintroduction of democracy in Bavaria in 1945, eleven men have held the office of Minister-President and governed the Free State of Bavaria:

- [Fritz Schäffer](#),
- [Dr. Wilhelm Hoegner](#),
- [Dr. Hanns Seidel](#),
- [Dr. Hans Ehard](#),
- [Dr. h. c. Alfons Goppel](#),

- Dr. h. c. Franz Josef Strauß,
- Dr. h. c. Max Streibl,
- Dr. Edmund Stoiber,
- Dr. Günther Beckstein,
- Horst Seehofer.

The current Minister-President is Dr. Markus Söder, MdL.

What does the Bavarian Minister-President do?

Determines the policy guidelines.

Signs state treaties.

Heads the State Government.

Issues laws passed by the Landtag.

Represents Bavaria externally.

Links & Downloads: Ministerpräsident

Lebenslauf: Dr. Markus Söder, MdL - DEUTSCH

Curriculum Vitae: Dr. Markus Söder, MdL - ENGLISH

Bavarian Constitution

Government Policy Statements

Rules of Procedure of the Bavarian State Government (StRGO)

Conference of Minister-Presidents



Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, speaking at a Conference of the Heads of Government of the German Federal States at the Bavarian Representation in Berlin.

From 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, Bavaria chaired the Conference of Minister-Presidents. The Chair of the Minister-President Conference is passed on each year in the autumn from federal state to federal state in a fixed order. Bavaria was the first federal state to hold the chair in 1954 and has held it six times since then. The next Bavarian Chair is scheduled for 2035/2036.

The aim is to reach joint agreement on all issues of cross-state relevance. Twice a year, a follow-up meeting is held with the German Chancellor.

→ **Bavaria in the Minister-President Conference**

Honorary sponsorship

Requirements for an honorary sponsorship of multiple births

At the request of the parents/legal guardians, the Bavarian Minister-President shall assume honorary sponsorship for multiple births of triplets or more

- who were born on or after 1 January 2018,
- who have German citizenship or citizenship of another member state of the European Union,
- who have their principal residence in Bavaria.

The sponsorship is granted with the presentation of a certificate signed by the Minister-President.



Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL (in the centre), personally presented honorary sponsorship certificates to multiple birth families in the State Chancellery.

Acknowledgement for special challenges

With this sponsorship, the State of Bavaria acknowledges the special challenges that families with multiples have to face. The grant is intended to cover the extraordinary expenses facing the multiple-birth family after the birth, which exceed the usual means for securing the basic necessities of life. The honorary sponsorship does not entail any obligations for the honorary sponsor.

Type and amount of financial support

The grant is a non-recurring amount of 1,000 euro for each child of the multiple birth. It is a voluntary benefit and is provided independent of income within the scope of the appropriated budget funds. There is no legal entitlement to the grant.

Procedure: Acceptance of honorary sponsorship

The municipality in which the family resides shall inform the parents/legal guardians that in the event of multiple births the Bavarian Minister-President will assume an honorary sponsorship upon submission of an application.

The application for honorary sponsorship shall be submitted using the [Application form \(PDF\)](#) within one year of the multiple birth. The municipality of residence confirms on the form that the application requirements have been met. For this purpose, it is necessary to present copies of the birth certificates or certified printouts from the birth register with the completed application. The application is then submitted to the State Chancellery which decides on the application and pays out the grant. The grant is paid out by way of bank transfer to an account of the parents/legal guardians, which shall be specified in the application.

The certificates of honorary sponsorship signed by the Minister-President are handed over by the mayor of the respective municipality of residence. The Minister-President reserves the right to present the certificates himself in individual cases.

Downloads: Honorary Sponsorship

Application form: Honorary Sponsorship for Multiple Births	Notification: Honorary Sponsorship for Multiple Births (PatenBek)
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Press Releases (in German)

Bayerische Staatskanzlei

[Bericht aus der Kabinettsitzung vom 7. Mai 2024](#)

Minister-Presidents and Cabinets since 1945 (in German)



Dr. Markus Söder, MdL	Horst Seehofer	Dr. Günther Beckstein	Dr. Edmund Stoiber
To the resume and cabinet (in German) >	To the resume and cabinet (in German) >	To the resume and cabinet (in German) >	To the resume and cabinet (in German) >



Dr. h. c. Max Streibl

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



Dr. h. c. Franz Josef Strauß

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



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To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



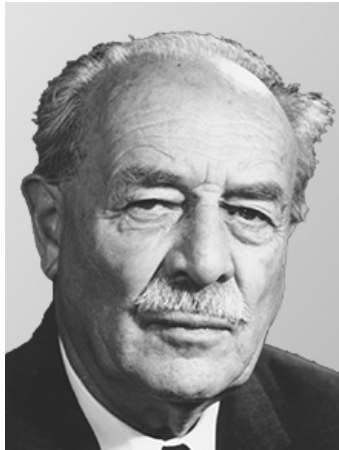
Dr. Hans Ehard

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



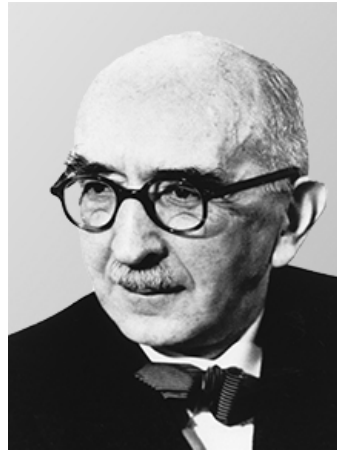
Dr. Hanns Seidel

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



Dr. Wilhelm Hoegner

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >



Fritz Schäffer

To the resume and cabinet
(in German) >

Contact

Please contact Dr. Markus Söder directly via e-mail to ministerpraesident@stk.bayern.de or use the **personal contact form** of the Minister-President.

Using the postal service, please communicate with the Minister-President under the address:

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80535 München

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