West Virginia Statistical Information

General State Information

**State Flag:** The design of the present state flag was officially adopted by the Legislature on March 7, 1929 by Senate Joint Resolution 18. Prominently displayed on the pure white field of today's flag and emblazoned in proper colors is the State Coat of Arms, the lower half of which is wreathed by Rhododendron. Across the top, lettered on a ribbon, is the constitutional designation - State of West Virginia. The white field is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue, and for parade purposes, all but the staff side are to be trimmed with gold fringe.

**State Seal:** Adopted by the Legislature on September 26, 1863, the Great Seal of West Virginia, which also is the Coat of Arms, symbolizes the principal pursuits and resources of West Virginia. The obverse side of the Seal bears the legend, State of West Virginia, together with the motto, Montani Semper Liberi (Mountaineers Are Always Free); a farmer stands to the right and a miner to the left of a large ivy-draped rock bearing the date of the state's admission to the Union, and in front of the rock are two hunters' rifles upon which rests a Phrygian Cap, or "Cap of Liberty." The Seal was designed by Joseph H. Diss Debar of Doddridge County at the request of the first West Virginia Legislature.

**State Day:** On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln approved the Statehood Bill for West Virginia, on the condition that the new state would gradually abolish slavery. West Virginia was proclaimed a state on April 20, 1863, with the bill becoming effective 60 days later (June 20, 1863).

**State Songs:** The West Virginia Hills, This is My West Virginia and West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home were designated as the official state songs of West Virginia, each ranking equally with others in official status, on February 28, 1963.

- **State Bird:** Cardinal (Richmondena Cardinalis) March 7, 1949
- **State Tree:** Sugar Maple (Acer Saccharum) March 7, 1949
- **State Flower:** Rhododendron Maximum of "Big Laurel" January 29, 1903
- **State Animal:** Black Bear (Ursus Americanus) 1973 Regular Session
- **State Fish:** Brook Trout 1973 Regular Session
- **State Fruit:** Golden Delicious Apple February 20, 1995
- **State Butterfly:** Monarch March 1, 1995
- **State Soil:** Monongahela Silt Loam April 2, 1997

**State Supported Universities:** 8
- Concord University
- Fairmont University
- Marshall University
- Shepherd University
- WV Osteopathic School of Medicine
- WV State University
- West Virginia University
- WVU Institute of Technology

**State Supported Colleges:** 4
- Bluefield State College
- Glenvale State College
- Potomac State College
- West Liberty State College
STATE CAPITOL - HELPFUL INFORMATION

CAPITOL
Open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday
Open 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Sunday and holidays

CAFETERIA
Open 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays
Menu Recording  558-6309
Office  558-4924

CULTURAL CENTER
Open 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
Open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Open 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday
Archives closed on Sunday; Library Commission closed Saturday and Sunday

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Ambulance  911
Dam Emergency  1 (800) 654-3312
Emergency Services  8-5380
Fire Department  911
General Services Division  558-2317; 558-5717 (after 5:00 p.m.)
Police Department  911
Pollution Spills  1 (800) 642-3074 (non-coal, oil, gas)
Security:
Protective Service  558-9911; 558-5715 after 5:00 p.m.
State Police  558-7777

STATE CAPITOL HANDICAPPED ENTRANCES
East Wing – California Avenue Entrance
West Wing – Cultural Center Entrance
Rotunda - Center Fountain Entrance

HELPFUL NUMBERS
Credit Union-State Employees  558-0566
Credit Union-DHHR  558-9188
Day Care Center  348-6580
Dispensary  558-3663
Maintenance Requests  558-2317
Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA)  558-7850
Retirement Board  558-3570
Security  558-9911
Snack Bar:
East Wing  558-2391
West Wing  558-2392
Tours: Capitol and Governor's Mansion  558-0220
Vital Statistics  558-2931

OFFICE HOURS
All state offices are open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many offices remain open additional hours to serve the public.
SHUTTLE SERVICE
Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KRT)  343-7586
(Subject to change during Legislative Session)
Service is provided to and from Laidley Field and the Capitol Complex before and after office hours and during lunch hours.

The bus runs approximately every 10-15 minutes and the stops are:
- Capitol Parking Building (Piedmont Road)
- Laidley Field (Parking Lot)
- Building 5 (Piedmont Road entrance)
- Building 6 (California Avenue entrance)
- State Capitol (East Wing entrance - California Avenue)
- State Capitol (Main entrance - California Avenue)
- Governor's driveway (Greenbrier Street)

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Capitol Operator  Dial 0

Dialing Instructions
- Station to Station from 558  Dial 8 + last 4 digits
- Charleston Area  Dial 9 + 7-digit number
- To dial 800 numbers  Dial 9 + 1 + 800 + 7-digit number

Long Distance:
- Intrastate  Dial 9 + 1 + 304 + 7-digit phone number
- Interstate  Dial 9 + 1 + area code + 7-digit phone number.
- International  Dial 9 + 0 + country code + city code + final digits.
ABOUT YOUR STATE CAPITOL

Architect: Cass Gilbert  
Completed: February 1932  
Original Cost: $9,491,180  
Grounds: 16 acres  
Floor Space: 535,000 square feet  
Outside Walls: 700 loads of Buff Indiana limestone  

Interior: Main Unit: Imperial Danby Vermont Marble  
Wings: Tennessee marble  
Floors: White Vermont Marble and Italian travertine  

Chandelier: Czechoslovakian-imported crystal weighing two tons; 15,000 candle power; 179 feet, 9 inches from the floor; 54-foot gold chain lowered by hand winch at a set speed, requiring 3-1/2 hours to lower and 4-1/2 hours to return to stationary position. It is lowered for cleaning every four years prior to the gubernatorial inauguration.

GENERAL STATE INFORMATION

STATISTICAL DATA

Highest point in West Virginia: Spruce Knob  
Pendleton County  

Lowest Point in West Virginia: Potomac River at Harpers Ferry  
Jefferson County  

Area (Square Miles) land and water: 24,231.4  

Population (2000 Census): 1,809,000  

Counties: 55  

Municipalities: 234  

Youngest County: Mingo (1895)  
Oldest County: Hampshire (1754)  
Smallest County: Hancock (88.2 square miles)  
Largest County: Randolph (1,040 square miles)  

Highest Point: Spruce Knob, Pendleton County (4,861 feet)  
Lowest Point: Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County (247 feet)  

Geographical Center of State: near Sutton, Braxton County  
Center of Population: near Gassaway, Braxton County
OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday (third Monday in January)
Washington's Birthday (Third Monday in February)
Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
West Virginia Day
Independence Day
Labor Day (First Monday in September)
Columbus Day (Second Monday in October)
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday (Fourth Thursday and Friday in November)
Christmas Eve*
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve*

* Indicates a half-day holiday.

When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the succeeding Monday shall be regarded, treated and observed as the legal holiday.

STATE WEB ADDRESS

www.wv.gov