

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 (<i>Richmondia Cardinalis</i>)	March 7, 1949
State Tree:	Sugar Maple (<i>Acer Saccharum</i>)	March 7, 1949
State Flower:	Rhododendron Maximum of "Big Laurel"	January 29, 1903
State Animal:	Black Bear (<i>Ursus Americanus</i>)	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
 Glenville 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