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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**

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

**Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder**



On 14 February 2026, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accepted the Ewald von Kleist Prize from Prime Minister Dr Markus Söder on behalf of the Ukrainian people.



On 13 February 2026, Minister President Dr Markus Söder met with the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, at the 62nd Munich Security Conference.



On 9 February 2026, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder welcomed the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Andrej Babiš, to the Bavarian State Chancellery for talks.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder (left) meets with the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa (right), for talks in Cape Town on 4 November 2025.



From 1 to 5 November, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder travelled to South Africa.

On 10 September 2025, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder welcomed the FC Bayern Munich women's and men's football teams to the dome hall of the Bavarian State Chancellery.



On 15 July 2025, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the Zugspitze. Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz took part in the cabinet meeting.

In Vienna, Bavaria's Minister-President Dr Markus Söder was received by Austria's Federal Chancellor Dr Christian Stocker on 10 July 2025 for a working visit to the Federal Chancellery.



Minister-President Dr Markus Söder with ESA astronauts Dr Matthias Maurer and Dr Alexander Gerst at the Bavarian Moon Summit on 4 July 2025 at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

On 1 July 2025, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder met NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte for talks at NATO headquarters in Brussels.



During his trip to India, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder visited Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site Raj Ghat on 13 April 2025.

Minister-President Dr Markus Söder met the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, in New Delhi on 13 April 2025.

*“ 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)**

## Press Releases (in German)

**Bayerische Staatskanzlei**

[EU-Finzen: Power-Regions fordern mehr Mitsprache und Beteiligung / Europaminister Beißwenger: Auch starke Standorte unterliegen ...](#)

## Minister-Presidents and Cabinets since 1945 (in German)



Dr. Markus Söder, MdL

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**



Horst Seehofer

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**



Dr. Günther Beckstein

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**



Dr. Edmund Stoiber

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**



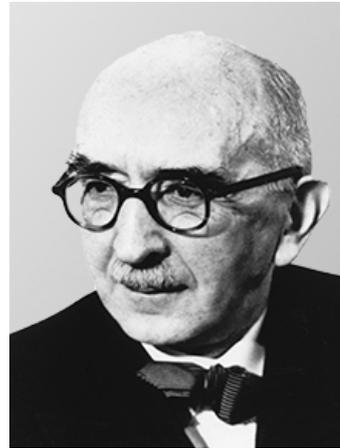
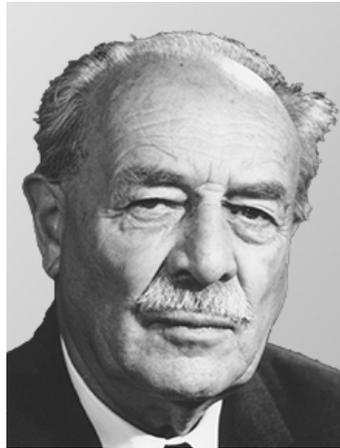
Dr. h. c. Max Streibl

Dr. h. c. Franz Josef Strauß

Dr. h. c. Alfons Goppel

Dr. Hans Ehard

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**



Dr. Hanns Seidel

Dr. Wilhelm Hoegner

Fritz Schäffer

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**

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(in German) >**

**To the resume and cabinet  
(in German) >**

## Contact

Please contact Dr. Markus Söder directly via e-mail to [ministerpraesident@stk.bayern.de](mailto: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:

Ministerpräsident Dr. Markus Söder  
Bayerische Staatskanzlei  
Postfach 220011  
80535 München

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