



WHAT DOES THE

**OATH OF  
OFFICE**

MEAN

# What Does the Oath of Office Mean?



Whenever someone is elected to a position within federal, state, or local government, they have to take an Oath of Office. An oath is a promise or a commitment. In this case, it is a public promise by the person taking office to uphold the Constitution and serve people honestly. This is different from a swearing-in ceremony, which is a ceremonial act to make the oath public and official. Every elected official has to take an Oath of Office, but they do not need to have a swearing-in ceremony.

Taking an Oath of Office also means the person understands the responsibilities and requirements of the position, and agrees to do their best to carry them out. This shows that holding public office is not just an honor, but a serious responsibility.

The exact words of the Oath of Office are different for each person, depending on their job. The Constitution clearly lays out the oath of office for the President. The Oath of Office also has to be taken by all elected and appointed officials at the federal, state, and local levels, including Supreme Court Justices, federal employees, and state/local officials.

Sources: <https://uscode.house.gov/>  
<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution/oath-of-office.htm>



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