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.
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
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)
Chancellor Olaf Scholz in conversation with Minister-President Dr Markus Söder, MdL, at a dinner on the sidelines of the G7 Summit at Schloss Elmau on 27 June 2022. © Bundesregierung / BPA

As part of the G7 Summit 2022, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder, MdL, has invited the partners of the G7 and the representatives of international organisations to a reception at the Munich Residence on 26 June 2022.

G7 Summit 2022: Minister-President Dr Markus Söder, MdL, welcomes the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden.

G7 Summit 2022: Minister-President Dr Markus Söder, MdL, welcomes the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, and his wife Brigitte Macron on 25 June 2022.

On 29 April 2022, in the presence of Carsten Spohr, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Minister-President Dr Markus Söder, MdL christened Lufthansa’s new Airbus A350-900 giving it the name of München (Munich), the capital city of the State of Bavaria.

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, participated in the demonstration “Peace in Europe, Solidarity with Ukraine!” on Königsplatz in Munich on 2 March 2022.
The Head of the Security Conference, Wolfgang Ischinger, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, at the Munich Security Conference on 19 February 2022.

During the 58th Security Conference, Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL (left), meets UN Secretary-General António Guterres (right) on 18 February 2022.

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, congratulates German President Dr. Frank Walter Steinmeier on his re-election on 13 February 2022.
At the opening of the modular building of Ingolstadt University of Technology on 31 January 2022, Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, visits the laboratory for Virtual Reality and Simulation.

On 12 November 2021 Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, receives Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at the Munich Residence.

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder, MdL, accompanies the Bergwacht Bayern (Bavarian Mountain Rescue Organisation) in the Allgäu Alps on 29 July 2021, during a rescue exercise, to gain an impression of how the organisation operates in alpine terrain.

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder on 12 July 2021, attending the inauguration of the building of the Department of Aerospace and Geodesy of Munich Technical University TUM, on the TUM campus in Ottobrunn/Taufkirchen.

Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder bids farewell to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at Munich Airport on 22 June 2020 after his visit to Bavaria.
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.
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
Press Releases (in German)

Bayerische Staatskanzlei

Hinweis auf Termine von Ministerpräsident Dr. Markus Söder

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)  

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)  

Application form: Honorary Sponsorship for Multiple Births

Notification: Honorary Sponsorship for Multiple Births (PatenBek)
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:

Ministerpräsident Dr. Markus Söder
Bayerische Staatskanzlei
Postfach 220011
80535 München