

Washington State Library

State Librarian Search Announcement



Secretary of State

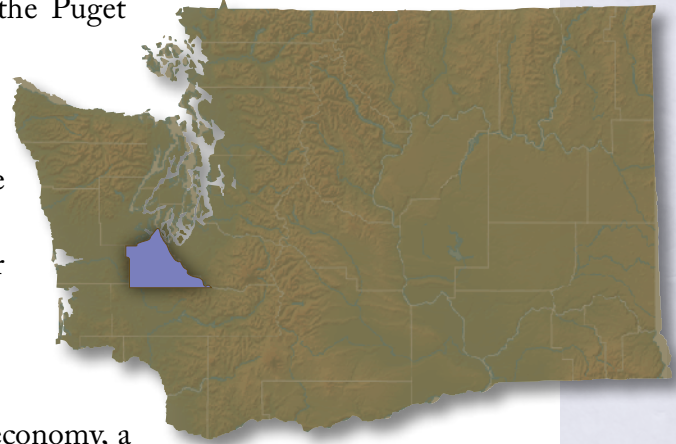
Kim Wyman

The Area

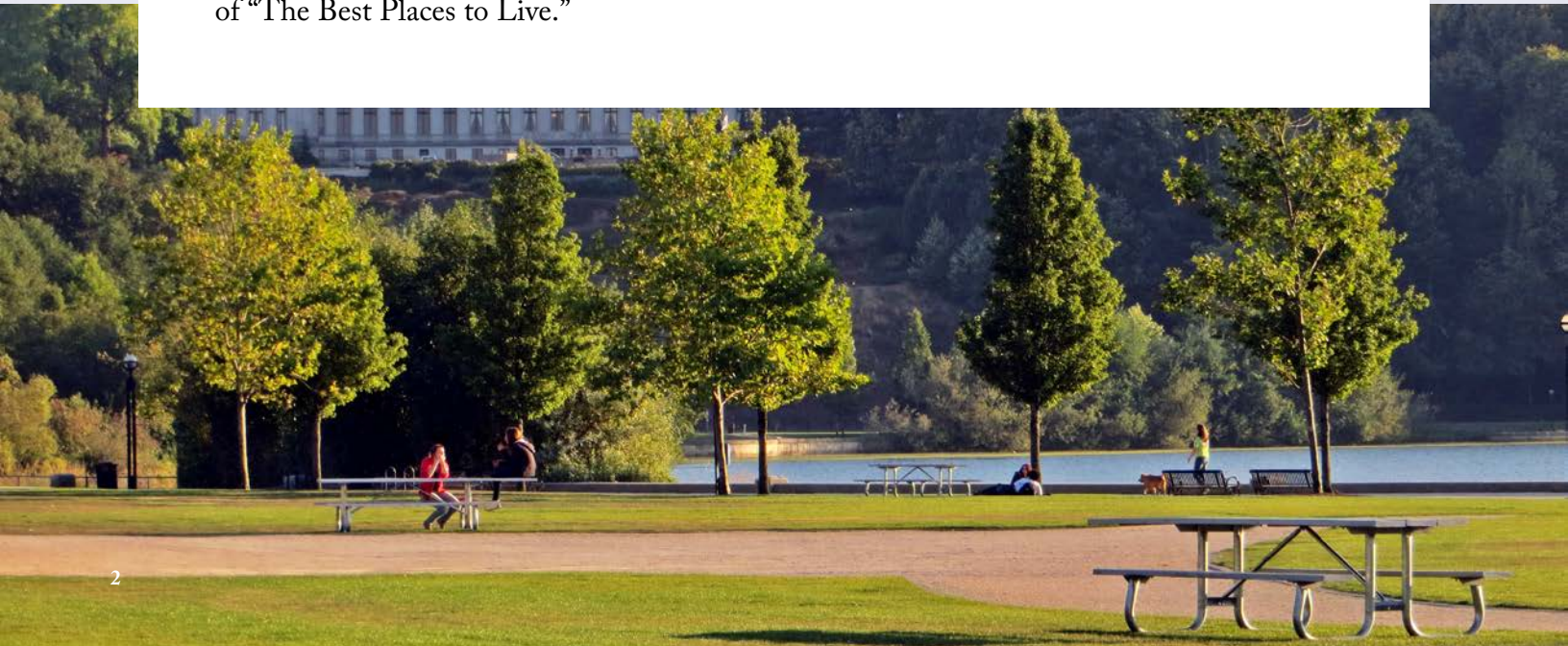
Recognized as one of the world's most scenic places, Washington state is a marvelous location to live, work, and play. The distinctive Northwest lifestyle, which blends a creative culture with a casual nature all surrounded by natural beauty, offers a quality of life that is unsurpassed.

From the shores of Pacific Ocean beaches to the majestic Cascade Mountains, including stunning Mt. Rainier, and from beautiful rainforests to world-renowned wine country, Washington has endless opportunities for exploration and recreation. Seattle and the greater Puget Sound region is a trendsetting urban center that is home to innovative companies, a distinguished public university and cutting-edge medical research centers. For outdoor enthusiasts, boundless recreation activities include skiing, hiking, camping, and mountain climbing. Large bodies of both fresh and salt water offer boating, sailing, kayaking, fishing, and windsailing activities.

Thurston County is located at the southern end of the Puget Sound, and includes the cities of Olympia — Washington's state capital, and neighboring cities Lacey and Tumwater. The county is home to nearly 290,000 residents with approximately half living in the urban tri-city area, while others prefer the smaller communities of Yelm, Tenino, Rainier, Bucoda, or the unincorporated areas.



Strong public schools, clean air and water, a healthy economy, a mild year-round climate, and close proximity to major metropolitan areas are some of the reasons why Thurston County communities are often included in lists of “The Best Places to Live.”





Office of the Secretary of State

The Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) offers some of the most unique and diverse job opportunities in state government. It's critical responsibilities include: ensuring a fair and accurate elections process; connecting Washingtonians through the power of libraries; protecting our important government records; and registering corporations and charities. The office also administers vital community programs that inspire giving, document our history, and assist crime survivors of avoided further abuse. This independent office under the state Constitution operates from facilities in the Olympia area and statewide.

The OSOS is looking for top-performing employees who embody its core values of integrity, service excellence, visionary leadership, and collaboration. It is committed to both employee growth and work-life balance. The benefits of working in state government also include potential eligibility for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

The Office of the Secretary of State promotes public trust by:

- Providing the business community and public with easy access to information about corporations and charities.
- Safeguarding vital government records, documents, publications, and process.
- Preserving the integrity of elections in Washington state.
- Performing public outreach to improve civic knowledge and participation.
- Leveraging technology to improve efficiency and enhance customer service.

The Washington Secretary of State is elected every four years and is second in the line of succession to the Office of the Governor. There have been 15 secretaries of state since statehood. The current Secretary of State is Kim Wyman.

The Washington State Library

Established in 1853, the Washington State Library houses, preserves, and provides access to the most comprehensive collection of printed, manuscript, and electronic materials on Washington state government, history, and culture. Open weekdays to the public, the Washington State Library is the research and reference library at the seat of state government.

The State Library administers the Regional Federal Depository and, through the State Publications Depository Program, it is the official designated holder of the state's collections of government publications. The State Library also administers the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, located in downtown Seattle, and 11 institutional branches located across the state in correctional and mental health facilities.



In addition, the State Library administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to State Program. Under this program, the State Library provides leadership, technical assistance, statewide library development projects, and grant funding to nearly all of Washington's local public libraries.

After a decade of managing budget uncertainties, following the 2015 legislative session, the Washington State Library now has a dedicated revenue stream, and the organization is committed to digitization and using digital technologies to serve the people of Washington state.

Washington State Library

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

6880 CAPITOL BLVD SOUTH



The State Librarian

The Washington State Librarian serves as the State Library Director, responsible for fulfilling the library's mission through the effective and efficient administration of an innovative, creative, and complex organization:

- The State Librarian plans and implements strategies that use emergent technologies and virtual services to provide comprehensive public access to library materials, collections, and services to the public.
- The State Librarian ensures all state, federal, and private grant programs that fall under the State Library's purview are managed in compliance with grant objectives and requirements.
- The State Librarian fosters strong relationships with the State Library's various partners and constituencies, seeking input and advice, and promoting collaborative efforts that maximize the agency's fiscal and human resources to the benefit of all Washingtonians.
- The State Librarian serves as a member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and the Western Council of State Libraries.
- The State Librarian works closely with federal Institute of Museum and Library Services leadership to ensure the needs of the state's libraries are met.



The Washington State Librarian is appointed by the Secretary and serves in an at-will capacity.

The Ideal Candidate

We are seeking a library services professional to shape the vision, develop the strategic plan, and provide the leadership required to maintain the Washington State Library as a model public resource, through which information is available in digital form, accessible anytime and anywhere.

The ideal candidate will be an advocate for thoughtful, purposeful modernization; a nimble leader with extensive success in building strong teams and high morale; an excellent communicator who is comfortable in front of a variety of audiences; and an exceptional administrator who is adept at managing resources and can demonstrate the value of library programs and services.

An Innovative & Strategic Thinker

- Understands thoroughly the current library technology trends and best operating practices.
- Develops and communicates a vision, then effectively leads and manages change.
- Creates and nurtures an environment in which excellence and innovation emerge and thrive.
- Implements new services and leading-edge technologies to enhance customer experience.



A Collaborative Leader

- Builds relationships by listening, valuing, and respecting the opinions and ideas of others.
- Works collaboratively with local libraries, library staff, and key stakeholders to chart and execute the library's mission.
- Cultivates an atmosphere of excellence, collegiality, and professional development.
- Mentors, coaches, and invests in the careers of others, embracing opportunities to assist staff with their professional development.

The Ideal Candidate (cont.)

A Persuasive Communicator

- Communicates openly, clearly, logically, and concisely with all library stakeholders.
- Has a high level of political astuteness in working with both elected and appointed officials at all levels of government.
- Interacts effectively with the media, and is an eloquent and visible voice in the community.
- Effectively engages with staff at all levels in all departments of the library, and empowers staff with the authority and resources to carry out their responsibilities.



Required Education & Experience

- Master's degree in library or information science from an ALA-accredited program.
- Five (5) years of full-time, progressively responsible experience in library operations and management as a professional librarian.
- Three (3) years of full-time experience with strategic planning and budget development/management for a library program within a library.
- Two (2) years of full-time management experience, including personnel management in a library or library-related field.



Compensation

\$126,000 - \$138,000, depending upon qualifications. Washington State offers a full benefits package that includes health, dental, life and long-term disability insurance; paid vacation, sick and military leave; optional credit unions, savings bonds and deferred compensation plans; 11 paid holidays; and a public employees' retirement plan.

To Apply

All applications must be submitted through careers.wa.gov online and include an application, resume, and letter of interest.

The screening process for this position is ongoing and will continue until the position is filled. If you have applied for this position already, your application is still under consideration and there is no need to reapply.

Should you have questions about this position and recruitment, please contact:

Don Freier
Office of the Secretary of State
(360) 704-5212
donald.freier@sos.wa.gov

The Office of the Secretary of State is an equal opportunity employer (EOE). We do not discriminate on the basis of religion, age, sex, marital status, color, creed, national origin, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or any real or perceived sensory, mental, or physical ability. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply. Persons of disability needing assistance in the application process, or those needing the announcement in alternative format, should call (360) 704-5212.

