
Oath of Office

102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Officers are sworn to uphold the U.S. and Wisconsin Constitutions and to enforce federal, state and local laws.

102.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the West Salem Police Department that, when appropriate, department members affirm the oath of their office as an expression of commitment to the constitutional rights of those served by the Department and the dedication of its members to their duties.

102.3 OATH OF OFFICE

Upon employment, all employees of this department shall be required to affirm the oath of office expressing commitment and intent to respect constitutional rights in discharging their duties (Wis. Const. Article IV, § 28).

Before any department employee begins his/her duties the employee shall subscribe and swear to the following written oath or affirmation in addition to any other form of oath or affirmation required (Wis. Stat. § 19.01(1)):

State of Wisconsin,

County of La Crosse,

I, the undersigned, who have been elected (or appointed) to the West Salem Police Department, but have not yet entered upon the duties thereof, swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of ____, ____ (Year)

_____ (Signature)

If the oath of office is administered orally in addition to the required written oath it shall be in substantially the following form (Wis. Stat. § 19.01(1m)):

I, _____, swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of the West Salem Police Department to the best of my ability. So help me God.

If a member is opposed to the words “so help me God” the words may be omitted.

102.3.1 LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR

The West Salem Police Department adheres to the public affirmation of the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor, which serves to enhance integrity and demonstrate the department’s commitment to the highest of ethical standards. The Oath of Honor shall be displayed throughout the Department. Frequent recitation by members of the West Salem Police Department is encouraged.

West Salem Police Department

Policy Manual

Oath of Office

Members are encouraged to take the following Law Enforcement Oath of Honor and sign a certificate to demonstrate their commitment:

On my honor,

I will never betray my badge/profession, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.

I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.

102.4 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The oath of office shall be filed as prescribed by law or policy (Wis. Stat. § 19.01(4)).