

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

The following list is an abridged, unofficial version but conforms to established, customary rules of precedence for official functions:

Federal Government

President of the United States
Vice President of the United States
Governor (in own state)
Mayor (in own city)
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chief Justice of the United States
Former Presidents of the United States
American Ambassadors (at Post)
Secretary of State
Secretary General of the United Nations
Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Foreign Powers
 accredited to the United States (in order of the presentation of
 their credentials)
Widows of former Presidents of the United States
Ministers of Foreign Powers accredited to the United States
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court
Retired Chief Justices
Retired Associate Justices of the Supreme Court
Members of the Cabinet
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Senators (according to length of continuous service)
Governors (when outside own state)
Former Vice Presidents
Members of House of Representatives (according to length of
 continuous service)

State Governments

Governor
County Commissioner (in own county)*
Mayor (in own city)
Lieutenant Governor
Comptroller
Attorney General
United States Senators (in home state by seniority)
United States Representatives (in home district)
Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals
United States Senators (based on seniority)
United States Representatives (based on seniority)

Municipal Governments

Mayor
President of the City Council
Public Advocate
City Comptroller
State Senators (in order of seniority)
State Assemblymen (in order of seniority)
District Attorney
Members of the City Council (in order of seniority)
Deputy Mayor Chief of Protocol Chief of Staff
Counsel to the Mayor

Diplomatic Order of Precedence*

American Ambassadors (when at Post)
President, United Nations General Assembly (when in session)
Secretary General of the United Nations
President, United Nations General Assembly (when not in session)
Foreign Ambassadors, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, accredited to the United States; Papal Nuncio (ranked according to his date) Ministers and Envoys Extraordinary of foreign powers accredited to the United States (in order of presentation of their credentials)

Charge d'Affaires of Foreign Powers
Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Foreign Powers
Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations
Ambassadors at Large
 Persons with Ambassadorial rank (foreign non-accredited,
 e.g. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations)
 Heads of International Organizations (International Monetary
 Fund, World Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction
 and Development, NATO)
 Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the
 United Nations
American Ambassadors (on State and Official Visits US cities)
Mayors of Major cities and the District of Columbia when in own city
 major cities defined as those with a population of one million
 or more residents: (Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los
 Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and San Diego)
American Charges d' Affaires
Under Secretaries General of the United Nations
American Ambassadors (designate, in the United States under normal
 orders, or on leave)
Representatives of United States Missions to the European Union
 (USEU) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and
 Development (USOECD)
Mayors of Major Cities (when not in own city)
Former American Ambassadors-Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions
 (in order of presentation of credentials at first post)
Non-accredited Ministers of foreign governments assigned to foreign
 diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C. (includes Deputy
 Chiefs of Mission)
Counselors of Embassies
Consuls General of foreign powers (legations)
Senior Secretaries of Embassies when there is no Counselor

**Source: U.S. Department of State*

COURTESY TITLES

1. *The Honorable*

Most high-ranking **American** officials, whether elected, appointed, or retired are addressed with the courtesy title, *The Honorable*, preceding their names. A partial list includes:

- Former Presidents
- Former Vice Presidents
- Cabinet Members and their Deputy Under Secretaries
- Ambassadors
- Former Supreme Court Justices
- All judges
- Members of Congress
- Heads of government agencies
- Governors
- Mayors
- Commissioners

The Honorable is occasionally used when addressing foreign diplomats as well:

- Cabinet officials
- Charge d'Affaires of ministerial level
- Heads of international organizations (including the United Nations) unless the individual is otherwise entitled to be addressed as His/Her Excellency

2. His/Her Excellency

Most high ranking foreign officials, whether in office or retired, are addressed as His/Her Excellency. Among those afforded these titles are:

Presidents
Prime Ministers
Premiers
Cabinet Officers
Ambassadors

American governors of the following states use the title *Excellency*:

New Hampshire
Massachusetts
South Carolina

3. The Right Honorable

This title is used when addressing the Prime Minister or Cabinet Officers within the British Commonwealth. In addition, those who are entitled to this title are:

Members of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom and
the Privy Council of Northern Ireland
Most senior public officials in Canada, e.g. Prime Minister,
Governor General
Prime Minister and senior Cabinet Ministers in New Zealand

4. Forms of Address for Royalty

King/Queen - His/Her Majesty
Royal Prince/Princess or Prince Consort - His/Her Royal
Highness
Prince/Princess (non-reigning) - His/Her Highness
Emperor/Empress - His/Her Imperial Majesty