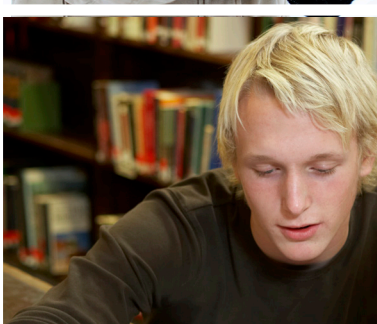
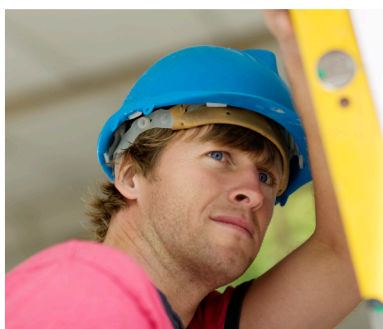




Oppland County Governor



«for the best  
of all living in the county»

[www.fylkesmannen.no/oppland](http://www.fylkesmannen.no/oppland)



## Oppland County Governor

The County Governor is the chief representative of King and Government in the county, and shall work for the implementation of the Storting (Parliament) and central government decisions. The County Governor is not elected, but appointed by the King and survives any government.

The County Governor is both a person - usually an experienced politician, former cabinet minister or MP - and an office. In Oppland county, about 135 persons work in this office, «for the best of all living in the county» as stated in the instructions.

In Norway, people meet the public sector in most walks of life. The most important administrative level, being responsible for the basic services of society, is the municipality. Elected every fourth year, the municipal council is free to organize its services to the people as they see fit, as long as it is according to laws and regulations.

The County Governor explains central policy documents in the local context, being aware of each municipality's ability to provide. Experts from the County Governor's office supervise local

activities, advise and instruct – with due respect to the political judgement of the local government.

Today, the county governors have a wide authority to work for the best of their county, balancing the national goals and the local democracy.

In the delicate position between national goals and regulations, and the day-to-day dealings of the municipalities, the County Governor may act as trouble-shooter, mediator and ombudsman. Conflicts between individuals and municipal bureaucracy may end up at the governor's desk for final decision. In handling complaints from individuals the governor also suggests how the municipalities should behave in similar cases.



**County Governor**  
**Sigurd Tremoen**



**Deputy County Governor**  
**Eli Blakstad**



# HEALTH, SOCIAL AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

The family is still the most important social unit in this country. Sometimes, the family needs help. There will always be individuals that cannot take care of themselves. By law, the municipalities are responsible for helping old or disabled people, either by institutions or preferably by nurses and helpers driving home to them. The general policy is to avoid a widespread use of institutions, and enable people to live in their private homes. This also applies to mentally or physically disabled people, needing extensive help to master the activities of daily life.

Local municipality is obliged by law to provide necessary health care to all residents. All GP doctors, nurses and other health personell are parts of the local system, while hospitals are state run or private. The County Governor, acting on behalf of the Norwegian Board of Health, supervises all health care services, looks into complaints about health services, and advises on a wide range of questions.



If the municipality fails to provide the necessary help, users of the public services may complain to the County Governor, who may order a change for the better. At the same time, the County Governor gives the municipalities advice in fields like kindergartens, social work among

children, and other parts of the welfare web.

Several times a year, officials from the County Governor inspect local institutions for the old, juvenile homes and institutions for alcohol- and drug addicts to see if they are run properly.

Every municipality shall have a social care service capable of rendering service to those who are unable to care for themselves. The County Governor can look into complaints from citizens claiming to be unfairly treated by the local social service.



**Dep. of Health and  
Social Care Affairs  
Chief Medical Officer  
Erlend Aasheim**

# EDUCATION

The County Governor's Department of Education is the long arm of the Ministry of Education and Research in Oppland County. This Department contributes to the implementation of national education policies in schools at all levels and promotes cooperation between school owners: the municipalities (1st to 10th grade), the county authority and the state-run universities and colleges.

The County Governor's Department of Education supports governmental development efforts in the county and may be regarded as a service institution and competence centre for the entire education sector in Oppland, including private schools, adult education organisations and non-exam academies (folk high schools).

Pupils, students, apprentices, parents and those who take part in adult education programmes have certain rights according to law. The Department of Education can review any individual decision made by the school owners regarding these rights, and may act as an ombudsman.



Quality standard supervision of the primary and secondary education and training is an important task for the Department of Education. It is carried out by different methods of evaluation, reviews and reports to central authorities.

The Department of Education also follows up the training in Norwegian language for minority groups, organised by the municipalities. This is done by supervision, training of teachers and distribution of an earmarked state grant.

The basic legal elements of the education sector are the Education Act, the Adult Education Act and the Private School Act. The County Governor's Department of Education supervises that private and public school owners follow these acts and the regulations derived from them.



**Department of Education**  
**County director**  
**Ingrid Bøe**



# ENVIRONMENT

A key task for the County Governor's Department of Environmental Protection is to preserve important areas for biodiversity and outdoor recreation. The County Governor controls local development plans, to ensure that necessary environmental considerations are taken into

account. The County Governor also prepares plans for protection of areas, and is also involved in the management of protected areas as national parks and nature reserves.

The County Governor contributes to preserve endangered species and nature types. To ensure this, the County Governor has authority under several laws. The County Governor also surveys occurrence of endangered species and nature types in the county. In addition, the County Governor carries out action plans for some endangered species and habitats.

The County governor is secretariat for the political board for carnivore management in Oppland. We administer the population regulation, hunting etc of bear, wolverine, lynx and wolf. The



management objects of Oppland is 4 breedings pr. year of wolverine and 5 breedings of lynx. The county governor processes from 400-500 cases a year of compensation for injuries of carnivore preying on sheep.

The County Governor is a central participant in management of

watersheds, including carrying through the EC water framework directive.

Being the long arm of central pollution authorities, the County Governor keeps an eye on all kinds of pollution. The main sources of nitrate and phosphate in Oppland are agricultural run-off, leakings from urban sewer and rural housing. Household waste is collected by the municipalities, working together in their region to recycle parts of the waste, compost organic material and secure the residuals in controlled landfills.



**Department of  
environmental protection  
County director  
Vebjørn Knarrum**

# AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The County Governor's Department of Agriculture acts as an instrument for the implementation of the national agricultural policy. This is crucial to secure people living off the land in the hills and valleys of this country.

About 8.000 families are dependent on farming and forestry in Oppland.

The use of farmlands and new initiatives to broaden the basis of employment in rural areas are main tasks for the County Governor. Oppland was first to develop guidelines and quality control systems for farm-based tourism.

The County Governor shall contribute to the implementation of national agriculture policies by information, distribution of state grants to farmers, and through locally adapted measures.

The County Governor manages a long range of state grants to farming and forestry. Most important to farmers are the production grant and the relief grant. The production grant includes a wide



range of measures.

In forestry, grants are aimed at longterm investments like forestry planning, reforestation, silviculture and forest roads. The County Governor handles grants to forest roads, forestry in rugged terrain and advocates the

increased use of bioenergy.

Most grants are channelled through the municipalities, who are obliged to inform farmers about them, receive applications and decide on them. Applications for production grants are filed twice a year.

The Governor assists the Norwegian Agriculture Agency by control measures and statistics, and treats complaints from farmers about municipal decisions.



**Department  
of agricultural affairs  
County director  
Bente Odlo**



# COORDINATION AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Coordination and emergency planning staff coordinates the work of the County Governor in several areas. The staff is also responsible for emergency planning and disaster relief management.

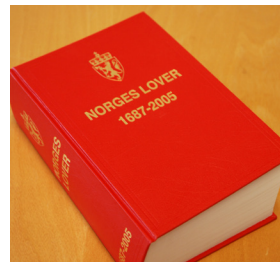
Modern society is vulnerable. There are several threats present, either natural or man-made. The County Governor supervises and advises the municipalities, and sees to it that plans for managing crises are made. The County Governor also coordinates the disaster relief efforts if disasters span two or more municipalities.



The communities must be a safe place to live in. The municipalities are required to do a safety evaluation as a basis for development plans. The County Governor may block any development plan if safety considerations are not deemed adequate.



The County Governor acts as an ombudsman to safeguard the civil rights of the county citizens. If the municipalities have made an unlawful decision, the citizen may forward a complaint to the County Governor. The Governor may overturn any unlawful decision.



Citizens who need legal aid or advice, and cannot afford it, may apply to the County Governor for free legal aid.

The financial position of the municipalities is monitored by the County Governor to ensure that the municipalities operate within the law.



**Coordination and Emergency staff**  
**County director**  
**Asbjørn Lund**

## DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Administration is taking care of internal administration, such as economy, personnel policy, archive and information technology.



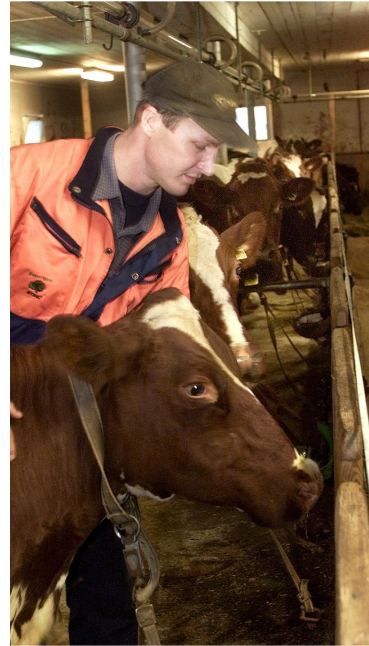
**Department of Administration**  
**County director**  
**Beate Golten**



The present 18 county governors can trace their office back to the 12th century. In 1685, the king of Denmark-Norway signed a decree of instructions to his county governors that was to remain in force up to 1981, surviving unions with Denmark and Sweden, wars, invasions and three centuries of development.



Oppland is one of 19 counties in Norway. Total 25.000 sq.kms, but only 185.000 inhabitants. The county is split in 26 local municipalities, varying in size and population.



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