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

Source: U.S. State Department & New York City Office of Protocol