



The Cantonal Government

The Cantonal Government is the supreme governing and executive authority in the Canton of Bern. It sets the goals for governing the canton and plans and coordinates activities under the Bernese political system.

The Cantonal Government comprises seven members, elected every four years by Bernese voters according to a first-past-the-post system. One of the seats is reserved for a politician from the Bernese Jura. This member of the Cantonal Government represents the French-speaking minority.

For the legislative period 2026–2030, the Cantonal Government is made up of representatives from five parties.

Party	seats
Social Democratic Party SP	2
Swiss People's Party SVP	2
The Centre	1
Free Democratic Party FDP	1
Green Party	1



The Cantonal Government's tasks

The members of the Cantonal Government work full-time for the Canton. They convene every week for a meeting in the Rathaus. The Government is headed by a president, elected each year by the Cantonal Parliament. The Cantonal Chancellor also takes part in the meetings and supports the government in carrying out its tasks.

Cantonal administration

Each member of the Cantonal Government heads one of the seven departments of the cantonal administration and ensures that cantonal affairs are administered effectively. In addition, the Cantonal Government sets the priorities for the many tasks that the canton has to carry out and submits these to the Cantonal Parliament for approval.

Finances

The Cantonal Government plans the canton's finances (management and financial plan, budget) and ensures through forward-looking planning that income and expenditure remain in balance. It has power to decide on new non-recurring items of expenditure of up to CHF 1 million, new recurrent expenditure of up to CHF 200 000 and tied expenditure.

Legislative procedures

The Cantonal Government is also responsible for preliminary legislative procedures (Constitution, acts, decrees) and issues cantonal ordinances (the implementing provisions for acts and decrees). It implements acts, decrees and ordinances, and decisions of the Cantonal Parliament and executes legally binding court judgments.

Representation in external affairs

In addition, the Cantonal Government acts as the Canton's representative in its external affairs – whether in its dealings with the Confederation, other cantonal authorities or the media. It also receives guests from abroad and is responsible for safeguarding public order and security. In emergencies, it has the power to take whatever measures are required.



2026 —
2030

The Bern Cantonal Government

Pierre Alain Schnegg	Director of Health, Social Services and Integration President 2026 2027
Astrid Bärtschi	Director of Finance Vice-President 2026 2027
Philippe Müller	Director of Security
Evi Allemann	Director of Planning and Transport
Raphael Lanz	Director of Economic Affairs, Energy and the Environment
Reto Müller	Director of Education and Culture
Aline Trede	Director of Home Affairs and Justice
Christoph Auer	Cantonal Chancellor

The seven members of the Cantonal Government are elected by voters in the Canton of Bern for a four-year term of office. The most recent general election was held in 2026. The President of the Cantonal Government changes every year on 1 June.



Photo: Thomas Baumann



Pierre Alain Schneegg



Director of Health, Social Services and Integration

Born in 1962
Attended school in Bévillard and Malleray
Federal Vocational Diploma in business, degree in engineering
and business informatics
Studied at the University of Geneva (MBA)
Married, four children
Lives in Champoz

Since 1.7.2016	Director of Health, Social Services and Integration
3.4.2016	Election to the Cantonal Government
2015	Member of the Communal Council in Champoz
2015–2016	President of the Bern-Jura Council
2014–2016	Member of the Bern-Jura Council
2014–2016	Member of the Cantonal Parliament
Since 2013	Member of the Swiss People's Party (SVP)
2009–2016	President of the Board of the Hôpital du Jura bernois SA
1987–2014	Joint founder and CEO of an IT company
1984–1986	Joint founder of a company dealing with agricultural and industrial buildings



Astrid Bärtschi



Director of Finance

Born in 1973
Attended school in Ostermundigen and Bern
Studied at the University of Bern
Graduated in law
Married, one child
Lives in Ostermundigen
Hobbies and interests: Horse riding, reading

Since 1.6.2022	Director of Finance
27.03.2022	Elected to the Cantonal Government
2022	President of the Communal Parliament in Ostermundigen
Since 2021	Member of The Centre
2021–2022	Head of Communication, The Centre Switzerland
2018–2022	Vice President of BDP / The Centre, Canton of Bern
2017–2020	Secretary General of the BDP in Switzerland
2017–2022	Member of the Communal Parliament in Ostermundigen, Member GPK 2017–2020
Since 2010	Member of the BDP, Canton of Bern
1999–2017	Manager of an SME



Philippe Müller



Director of Security

Born in 1963

Attended school in Stettlen and Bern

Studied at the ETH Zurich and the University of Bern: graduated in agronomics (Dipl. Ing. Agr. ETH) and qualified as an attorney-at-law

Military rank: Major

Lives with partner, one child

Lives in Bern

Hobbies and interests: Mountains, skiing, jogging

Since 1.6.2018	Director of Security
25.3.2018	Election to the Cantonal Government
2013–2017	President of the FDP for the City of Bern
2010–2018	Member of the Cantonal Parliament
2005	President of the City Parliament Bern
2002–2018	CSL Behring AG (member of management from 2004)
2001–2010	Member of the City Parliament Bern
1998–2022	Attorney at the law firm Hodler & Emmenegger
Until 1998	Various positions in the courts, in legal practice, at an agricultural research station, etc.
Since 1992	Member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP)



Evi Allemann



Director of Planning and Transport

Born in 1978
Attended school in Grossaffoltern, Rapperswil BE,
Spiegel by Bern and Köniz
Studied at the University of Bern
Graduated in law
Lives with partner, two children
Lives in Bern
Hobbies and interests: Swimming in the River Aare,
mountains, cinema

Since 1.6.2026	Director of Planning and Transport
2018–2026	Director of Home Affairs and Justice
25.3.2018	Election to the Cantonal Government
2016 – 2018	Member of the board of BERNMOBIL
2013–2018	President of the VCS Swiss Association for Transport and Environment
2007 – 2018	Freelance work focusing on NGOs
2006–2018	President of the Canton of Bern Tenants Association
2005–2007	Lecturer in administrative law for the Bern Commercial Association, Cantonal Administration Bern branch
2004–2011	President of the «Läbige Stadt» transport policy association
2003–2018	Member of the National Council
1998–2003	Member of the Cantonal Parliament
Since 1997	Member of the Social Democratic Party (SP)



Raphael Lanz



Director of Economic Affairs, Energy and the Environment

Born in 1968
Attended school in Thun
Studied at the University of Bern and University of California,
Berkeley School of Law
Graduated with a doctorate and masters in law, qualified as
an attorney-at-law.
Married, three children
Lives in Thun
Hobbies and interests: Skiing, jogging, reading, playing jass

Since 1.6.2026	Director of Economic Affairs, Energy and the Environment
29.3.2026	Election to the Cantonal Government
Since 2015	President of the Thun Politforum Association
2014–2026	Member of the Cantonal Parliament
2011–2026	Mayor of Thun
2011–2026	Various positions on company and executive boards
2007–2010	Member of the Thun City Parliament, President of the City Parliament in 2010
To 2010	Legal work in courts and at the University of Bern
Since 1999	Member of the Social Democratic Party (SP)



Reto Müller



Director of Education and Culture

Born in 1978

Attended school in Thunstetten und Langenthal

Studied at the Langenthal Teacher Training College, Bern University of Teacher Education and the University of Bern

Married, three children

Lives in Langenthal

Hobbies and interests: Sport, cooking, culture

Since 1.6.2026	Director of Education and Culture
29.3.2026	Election to the Cantonal Government
2023–2026	President of Bern Citizens' Communes Association
2017–2026	Vice President of the Oberaargau Region, President of the Urban Areas Conference, Vice President of the Regional Transport Conference
2017–2026	Mayor of Langenthal
2013–2026	Member of the Cantonal Parliament
2010–2026	Various positions on company, foundation and executive boards
2010–2026	Member and from 2018 President of the Contact Foundation Board
2009–2026	Member of the Langenthal Communal Government
2003–2009	Member of the Langenthal Communal Parliament, President of the Communal Parliament in 2008
2000–2016	Various positions as secondary school teacher and member of staff at the Bern University of Teacher Education
Since 2000	Member of the Swiss Social Democratic Party (SP)



Aline Trede



Director of Home Affairs and Justice

Born in 1983
Attended school in Bern
Studied at the ETH Zurich
Graduated in Environmental Sciences at the ETH and CAS in
Business Administration at the Bern University of Applied Sciences
Two children
Lives in Bern
Hobbies and interests: Cycling, Baltic Sea, River Aare,
mountains, gardening

Since 1.6.2026	Director of Home Affairs and Justice
29.3.2026	Election to the Cantonal Government
Since 2024	Member of the Central Committee of the Swiss Football Association
2020–2026	Group President for the Greens Switzerland in the National Council and Council of States
2019–2026	Co-owner of a campaign agency
2019–2026	Co-President of the 'Gewerbeverein'
2018–2026	Member of the National Council
2013–2015	Member of the National Council
2008–2012	Member of the Bern City Parliament
2008–2012	Campaign manager for the VCS Swiss Association for Transport and Environment
2004–2026	Various positions on company and executive boards
Since 2004	Member of the Greens Switzerland



Christoph Auer



Cantonal Chancellor

Born in 1966
Attended school in Speicher and Trogen AR
Studied at the University of Bern
Graduated in law, cantonal qualification as an attorney-at-law,
doctorate in law
Married, two children
Lives in Wabern
No political party affiliation
Hobbies and interests: Singing, reading, cross-country skiing, cycling

Since 2016	Lecturer in Bernese constitutional law at the University of Bern
Since 2013	Head of the Cantonal Chancellery
11.9.2012	Election as Cantonal Chancellor
Since 2012	Member of editorial team for the Schweizerisches Zentralblatt für Staats- und Verwaltungsrecht (Swiss Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law)
Since 2009	Lecturer on Bernese administrative procedure law at the University of Bern
2008–2025	Member of the Canton of Bern Bar Examination Committee
2006–2013	Head of legal services in the Department of Justice and Communal and Ecclesiastic Affairs of the Canton of Bern
2000–2006	Advisor to the directorate and other positions in the Federal Office of Justice
1992–2000	Clerk to the Bern Administrative Court
1997–1998	Period abroad in the USA (postgraduate studies, graduated with LL.M.)