

# ADMINISTRATION OF SVALBARD

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## Lokalstyret (Longyearbyen local government)

[https://www-lokalstyre-no.translate.goog/fakta-om-longyearbyen.573614.no.html?x\\_tr\\_sl=no&x\\_tr\\_tl=en&x\\_tr\\_hl=no](https://www-lokalstyre-no.translate.goog/fakta-om-longyearbyen.573614.no.html?x_tr_sl=no&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=no)

### Longyearbyen – a unique arctic city

Longyearbyen is the administrative center on Svalbard and the largest settlement with around 2,500 inhabitants, distributed among more than 50 nations. The Norwegian government believes that Longyearbyen will be a robust local community. But it should not be a life-course community, or have a range of services at the same level as mainland municipalities. Longyearbyen is located in the middle of a varied and beautiful arctic nature with good opportunities for outdoor life, and is a modern town with a good range of services and a varied association, sports and cultural life. Business is diverse, and primarily based on the main pillars of coal, tourism, research and teaching, space-related activities and Arctic logistics.

### Longyearbyen local government

Through the establishment of the Longyearbyen local government in 2002, a local democracy was established in Longyearbyen. Our elected body is the local board and consists of 15 members. This is also the highest body in Longyearbyen local government. The establishment of the Longyearbyen local government has given the local population the right to co-determination in important areas such as social and spatial planning, infrastructure, business development and growing conditions. Longyearbyen local government's area of responsibility is limited to its own planning area in and around Longyearbyen of approx. 260 km<sup>2</sup>. In this area, LL can run activities of general interest that are not looked after by the state. Longyearbyen local government has tasks that are roughly the same as those of a municipality on the mainland, including primary school, upper secondary school, cultural school, after-school education, kindergartens, library, sports and culture, infrastructure and energy production.

## The governor of Svalbard (Sysselmesteren)

<https://www.sysselmesteren.no/en/the-governor-of-svalbard/>

The Governor of Svalbard is the Norwegian government's highest-ranking representative on the archipelago. The Governor acts as both the chief of police and county governor. Administratively, The Governor falls under the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, but it also performs tasks for a number of other ministries.

As chief of the police, the Governor has the same responsibility and authority as the police chiefs on the Norwegian mainland. The Governor is responsible for the rescue service, and is responsible for the civil protection and preparedness, both as chief of the police and as county governor. As county governor, the Governor of Svalbard is the regional, national environmental protection authority on Svalbard and is responsible for enforcing the environmental regulations and overseeing compliance with the regulations.

The Governor's office is organized into three departments: Environmental Protection Department, Police Department and Administration Department. In addition, there is a staff working across the departments.

## The Svalbard Treaty

[https://www.sysselmesteren.no/contentassets/5f9275a042644c38af66cbd43a4ade7f/info-folder\\_sysselmannen\\_engelsk.pdf](https://www.sysselmesteren.no/contentassets/5f9275a042644c38af66cbd43a4ade7f/info-folder_sysselmannen_engelsk.pdf)

Norwegian sovereignty over Svalbard follows from the Svalbard Treaty and is confirmed, according to the principles of international law, by implicit recognition by other states. The Treaty was signed on 14 February 1920, and more than 40 states are now party to it. Through the Treaty Norway has undertaken a limited obligation in accordance with international law to treat citizens and enterprises from all parties on equal terms in certain areas of activity specified in the Treaty. The Treaty came into force on 14 August 1925, and from that date an act of parliament, the Svalbard Act, confirms the status of Svalbard as part of the Kingdom of Norway. At the same time the office of Governor was established. The designation "sysselmann" (the Norwegian word for the Governor of Svalbard) is old and signifies the highest governmental representative within a certain area. Consisting from the beginning of one person, the office has since grown to more than 40 full-time employees.