

TOUR FLASHCARDS



Visitor Services Center
Office: 801-538-1800

*Some locations may not be accessible without a Visitor Services tour guide

Timeline

- 1776:** The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition first explores the land where Utah stands today.
- 1843:** John C. Fremont's expedition party set off to explore the Far West, including the area now known as Utah.
- 1847:** Native American tribes dwell in the region now known as Utah. Brigham Young and 148 Mormon Pioneers enter the Salt Lake Valley in search of a suitable settlement area.
- 1850:** The Territory of Utah is established and Brigham Young becomes the first territorial governor.
- 1876:** Arsenal Hill (now known as Capitol Hill) is the storage of the city's military supplies. On April 5, the hill suffered a massive explosion of black powder and ammunition causing widespread destruction. Salt Lake City experiences rapid growth and Arsenal Hill is allocated as the site for a future statehouse.
- 1890:** After many failed attempts to become a state, primarily due to the practice of plural marriage, a Manifesto is issued by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ending this practice, allowing the statehood process to continue.
- 1896:** Utah becomes the 45th state in the Union. Heber Manning Wells is elected at the age of 36, becoming the first and youngest governor of the state.
- 1909:** The Utah State Legislature creates the Capitol Commission to oversee the design and construction of the Capitol building. The Utah State Inheritance Tax is enforced, resulting in a payment of \$798,546 from the estate of E.H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific Railroad.
- 1911:** The Utah State Legislature creates a \$1 million bond for the Capitol's construction. A budget for the project is set at \$2.7 million.
- 1912:** Construction of the Capitol begins. Out of 31 applicants, Richard K. A. Kletting is selected as the Capitol architect. The groundbreaking ceremony takes place December 26.
- 1916:** The Capitol is completed. A ceremony and public reception are held on October 9 and 40,000 visitors attend.
- 2004:** The Capitol restoration begins. This project preserves the historic nature of the Capitol and increases building safety due to concerns of possible seismic events.
- 2008:** The Capitol restoration is completed at a total cost of \$227 million. The Utah State Capitol is rededicated on January 4th.

Capitol Building Overview

Richard Kletting, a German born architect, designed the Capitol in the neoclassical style, meaning it has architectural roots in ancient Greek and Roman styles (columns, dome, etc.).

Advanced construction technologies were implemented including reinforced concrete, central vacuum system, fire-proofing system, elevators, and electric lighting.

Capitol Building Specs:

- Height to top of dome: 250 feet
- Width: 220 feet
- Length: 410 feet
- Weight: 168 million pounds
- Square feet: 330,000 ft²

The exterior **granite** was mined in Little Cottonwood Canyon. There are 52 granite Corinthian columns lining the exterior of the building.

Capitol Grounds Highlights:

The **Capitol Grounds** were designed by the renowned landscape company Olmsted Brothers of Brooklyn, who also designed Central Park in New York City. Olmsted's plans for Utah's grounds featured an oval walkway around the buildings and expanded the land to 40 acres. The plan also positioned the Capitol building so that it could be seen clearly from the valley below.

Lining the oval walkway, or Memorial Pathway, are 433 Yoshino **cherry trees**. These Japanese trees blossom beautifully every spring. Along this path, visitors can enjoy many noteworthy monuments and statues.

The **Mormon Battalion Monument**, located on the southeast side of the Capitol grounds, was dedicated in 1927 and became the first monument on Capitol Hill. It commemorates sacrifices made by 500 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who volunteered to join the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War.

Hall of Governors

The **Hall of Governors** is a designated space to honor Utah's past governors. It is tradition that before a governor leaves office they sit for a portrait to commemorate their time spent serving. Beginning with Heber Manning Wells, on the northeast corner, we can see these portraits in sequential order clockwise around the room. The most recent portraits are added on the wall east of the inside circle.

The ceiling in the center of the room features replica **Edison-era light bulbs**, reminiscent of the original light bulbs used in the building.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Capitol in 2016, the **Great Seal of the State of Utah** was installed in the center of the Hall of Governors. The seal was adopted in 1896 when Utah became the 45th state in the Union. Symbols in the seal include:

1. **1847:** Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley
2. **1896:** Utah was admitted into the United States
3. **Two American Flags:** featuring a total of 45 stars to commemorate Utah becoming the 45th state of the Union
4. **Sego Lilies:** adopted as Utah's state flower in 1911
5. **Industry and Beehive:** adopted in 1959 as the state motto and emblem, respectively, representing the unity of all Utahns
6. **Bald Eagle:** represents protection in peace and war
7. **Arrows:** represent the Native American tribes of Utah (Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, Confederated Tribes of Goshute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation.)

The first-floor wall panels are made from local Sanpete County **oolite limestone**. At the time of the Capitol's construction, this oolite was widely used as a building material because of its cream color, durability, and ease of quarrying and carving.

The **Liberty Bell** replica (located near the west entrance) is one of 55 that were commissioned by the United States Treasury in 1950 and forged in France. The bells were made to the exact size of the original bell, standing six-feet tall and weighing more than one ton.

Rotunda

The **Rotunda** is the grand center of the Capitol, serving as a gathering space for government and free speech events. This space can also be rented for proms, weddings, luncheons, and other occasions.

The open design and skylights are symbolic of **transparency** in the Utah government. From this central point of the Rotunda, one can see all three branches of government.

The **marble** in the Rotunda is from the state of Georgia. The 24 columns were carved in Georgia and sent to Utah by railcar; each column weighs approximately 25,000 pounds. The marble wall panels are cut in book-cuts creating unique symmetrical patterns.

At 165 feet above the floor of the Rotunda, the **dome mural**, painted by William Slater, depicts seagulls soaring among the sunset-tinted clouds. The largest birds' wingspans are approximately six feet wide. The seagull was adopted as the state bird in 1955.

The **chandelier**, which is original to the Capitol, weighs approximately 1,000 pounds and the chain, which is 95 feet long, weighs 5,000 pounds. This light fixture was repaired during the 2004-2008 restoration, utilizing replacement glass shades from the Arkansas State Capitol which has an identical fixture.

The four large **pendentive murals** depict explorers entering the region, including *Father Escalante Discovers Utah Lake* (1776), *Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden River* (1828), *Fremont First Sees Great Salt Lake* (1843), and *Brigham Young and Pioneers Entering the Valley* (1847). Each painting is 14 by 20 feet.

The murals at the base of the dome (cyclorama) tell the history of early Utah settlers, including *Gulls save the Wheat Fields* and *Driving the Golden Spike*. (The best view for these paintings is from the fourth floor.)

The pendentive and cyclorama paintings, by Lee Greene Richards, were initially painted on canvas at the Utah State Fair Grounds and later added to the Rotunda in 1935. The Public Works of Art Program funded the pendentives and cyclorama artwork. This federal relief program was formed to provide work for unemployed artists during the Great Depression.

State Reception Room (Gold Room)

The **State Reception Room** is utilized by the Office of the Governor for press conferences, ceremonial bill signings, to receive dignitaries from other states and governments, and award ceremonies to honor important and outstanding Utahns (military, school achievement, etc.).

This room is nicknamed the “**Gold Room**” for the beautiful gold detailing. Real gold leafing is located on the upper areas of the walls and ceiling. Furniture, tapestries, and chandeliers were imported from Europe to create this beautifully ornate space. Originally valued at \$65,000, the room is now worth millions.

During the 2004-2008 **restoration**, extensive work was done in this room. The silk wall panels are replicas of the originals, which were made in Italy. The rug is a replica and was machine-made in England. The original rug was hand-tied in Scotland and is now stored at the State History archives.

The large **conference table** was built in Chicago and has a veneer top of Circassian walnut from Russia while the rest of the table is made of American walnut.

The stunning Birdseye **marble** on the walls of this room was quarried near Birdseye, Utah. It can also be seen in the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court.

The **ceiling mural** titled *Children at Play*, was painted in the Beaux-Arts style by artist Louis Schaettle. The mural was painted on canvas in New York City and installed on the Gold Room ceiling after its completion.

The **sconces** are from England. The four **chandeliers** were imported from France and contain 1,125 crystals each.

The plaster **cherubs** located near the mural hold laurel garland draped across a shield to symbolize defense and protection.

Large **mirrors**, seen at each end of the room, are double-beveled French plate glass framed in locally-mined gold and silver.

Governors of Utah have hosted many **notable visitors** in this room over the years. President George W. Bush visited on February 8, 2002 to open the Winter Olympic Games and President Donald J. Trump hosted a press conference at the Capitol on December 4, 2017.

Governor's Office (open by appointment only)

The **governor** is the chief executive officer, commander in chief of the state's military forces, and head of the executive branch of government. The governor's responsibilities include ensuring laws are carried out effectively, developing the state's budget, nominating or appointing leaders in state departments, and promoting policies to develop Utah's economy, education, and standard of living.

For a **bill** to become a law, it must be presented to the governor, who may sign it, veto it, or let it become a law without their signature. The governor may also call the legislature into a special session to address specific topics outside of the annual 45-day legislative session.

The governor and lieutenant governor are elected together and serve four-year terms. The **lieutenant governor** is the second highest official in the state and first in the line of succession to the role of governor. The lieutenant governor serves as the chief elections officer, intermediary between the governor and the legislature, and on numerous committees and commissions.

The two **murals** opposite each other in the lobby were painted by Henry L.A. Culmer. They depict Utah's oldest industry which is mining. Bingham Canyon Mine, portrayed over 100 years ago, is now known as Kennecott Copper Mine and is still functioning in the Oquirrh Mountains. This open pit mine is so large it can be seen clearly from space.

The governor's **ceremonial office** is used primarily for meetings and ceremonial bill signings.

In 1999, a tornado tore through downtown Salt Lake City taking with it many of the hundred-year-old trees on the Capitol grounds. Local artisan, Chris Gochnour, repurposed the wood from the fallen trees and built the ceremonial desk and bookcase. The desk is frequently referred to as the "**tornado desk**" and serves as a symbol of Utah's determination.

Supreme Court

The **Supreme Court** is the highest court of appeal in Utah. It works primarily as a “court of review” meaning the justices review the work of lower courts such as the Court of Appeals, District, Juvenile, and Justice Courts. The Supreme Court may declare laws unconstitutional by a majority vote.

The Supreme Court is comprised of **five justices** who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Justices are placed onto ballots every 10 years for retainer elections by the people of Utah.

In 1998, the Supreme Court moved to the newly built **Matheson Courthouse**. However, this chamber was kept in its historic beauty to remind visitors that all three branches were previously unified under one roof and it is used at least once a year by the justices.

The **stoplight** (semaphore) was gifted to the Supreme Court in 1916 by the family of Lester Wire, Salt Lake Police Officer and inventor of the electric traffic light. The light serves as a timer during court cases, allowing each side exactly 20 minutes to address the justices.

The **Scales of Justice and Mercy** symbol on the north and south walls shows the fine balance between the two concepts. The balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of society as a whole are also symbolized.

The **Book of Law** symbol, depicted on the east and west walls, shows how every law is written down, codified, and built on the State Constitution and previous laws.

The mural, **Caroline Bridge**, was painted by Henry L. A. Culmer in 1905. Located in Natural Bridges National Monument in the southeastern corner of Utah, this bridge was preserved by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1904 after its initial discovery.

Senate

The **legislative branch** is responsible for creating laws for the state and consists of the Senate and House of Representatives. They also approve the annual budget and levy taxes.

The **Utah Senate** is a body of 29 individuals elected to 4-year terms, each serving approximately 95,000-100,000 citizens.

The Senate shares responsibility with the House for making laws for the state in an annual **45-day session**. They have the added duty of approving nominations made to state courts and commissions.

The Senate is often called the **upper house**, meaning that it's more removed from everyday people than the members of the House. Senators also represent more constituents and serve longer terms.

The 28 **roll-top desks** are original to the chamber and were refurbished during the Capitol restoration. The Senate opted to retain their historic roll call vote, and verbally state *yea* or *nay* when voting on bills.

The **Utah Lake** mural, located on the north wall, is original to the building and was painted by Lee Greene Richards and Alma B. Wright.

The two murals which flank the chamber, painted by Keith Bond, were added during the Capitol's restoration. ***My Ancestral Home*** shows the mountains, red rocks, and ancient ruins of the southern Utah desert depicting the False Kiva area of Canyonlands National Park. ***Orchards Along the Foothills*** is from the artist's imagination depicting spring snow on the Wasatch Mountains with blossoming fruit trees symbolizing Northern Utah agriculture.

The cream colored stone on the walls is called **Utah Honey Onyx**. It was quarried about 70 miles west of the Capitol in Aragonite, Utah.

During the **Capitol restoration**, openings were added to the lower walls of the chamber to expand the area. Due to dynamiting and flooding of the original quarries, local onyx was unavailable for the remodel. Onyx, which matched the original, was quarried in Pakistan, tooled in Italy, and then shipped to Utah to be used in the chamber.

House of Representatives

There are **75 members** of the Utah House of Representatives elected to 2-year terms, each representing approximately 40,000 constituents. There are no term limits for elected officials in Utah.

Utah has a **part-time (citizen) legislature** that convenes annually for a 45-day session from mid-January to early-March. After the session, legislators return to their careers and family lives, keeping them in touch with those they represent.

From April to November, legislators convene once a month for an **interim session** to meet with experts and plan bills for the following year.

During the session, the **gallery** is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. The press boxes on either side are reserved for news media.

The phrase ***vox populi*** found on the wall above the speaker's seat is Latin meaning "voice of the people" reminding the House members of the purpose of the chamber.

The House was upgraded during the **Capitol restoration** and now includes an electronic voting system where legislators cast their votes.

The murals located on the east and west walls are original to the space. ***Dream of Brigham Young***, by Vincente Aderente depicts Brigham Young with plans for the Salt Lake LDS Temple in hand with a "vision" of the building behind him. ***Jim Bridger and the Discovery of the Great Salt Lake***, by Alonzo Earl Foringer shows the trapper Jim Bridger in discussion with an early explorer.

The murals located on the north and south walls, titled ***Seraph Young Votes and Engen Brothers Bring Skiing to Utah***, were added during the Capitol restoration and painted by David Koch. Seraph Young voted on February 14, 1870 in a Salt Lake municipal election. She was the first female to vote in the continental United States. The Engen brothers, Alf and Sverre, emigrated to Utah in 1929 and aided in establishing skiing in Utah and Idaho.

Base Isolation System

Between 2004 and 2008, the Capitol underwent an extensive **restoration** which included adding 265 base isolators underneath the building. They minimize the impact upon the Capitol in the event of an earthquake.

A **base isolator** is an object placed between the foundation of a building and the ground to keep the building from shaking too much during an earthquake. During a seismic event, the base isolators “isolate” the building from the movement of the earth.

The base isolators are made of alternating layers of rubber and steel with a lead core. **During an earthquake**, the earth’s movement heats the lead, turning it into a putty-like material as it dissipates the earthquake’s energy. The isolators allow the building to shift up to two feet in any lateral direction, controlling movement to keep the Capitol relatively still. After the earthquake stops, the lead core solidifies again and the isolator reverts back to its original shape.

By adding base isolators to the Capitol, the total **seismic impact** upon the building is reduced by roughly 75 to 80 percent-- tremendously increasing safety and safeguarding our historic statehouse. The isolators will allow the Capitol to withstand a 7.3 magnitude earthquake.

