

Colorado Governors' Portraits

First floor – east and west foyers

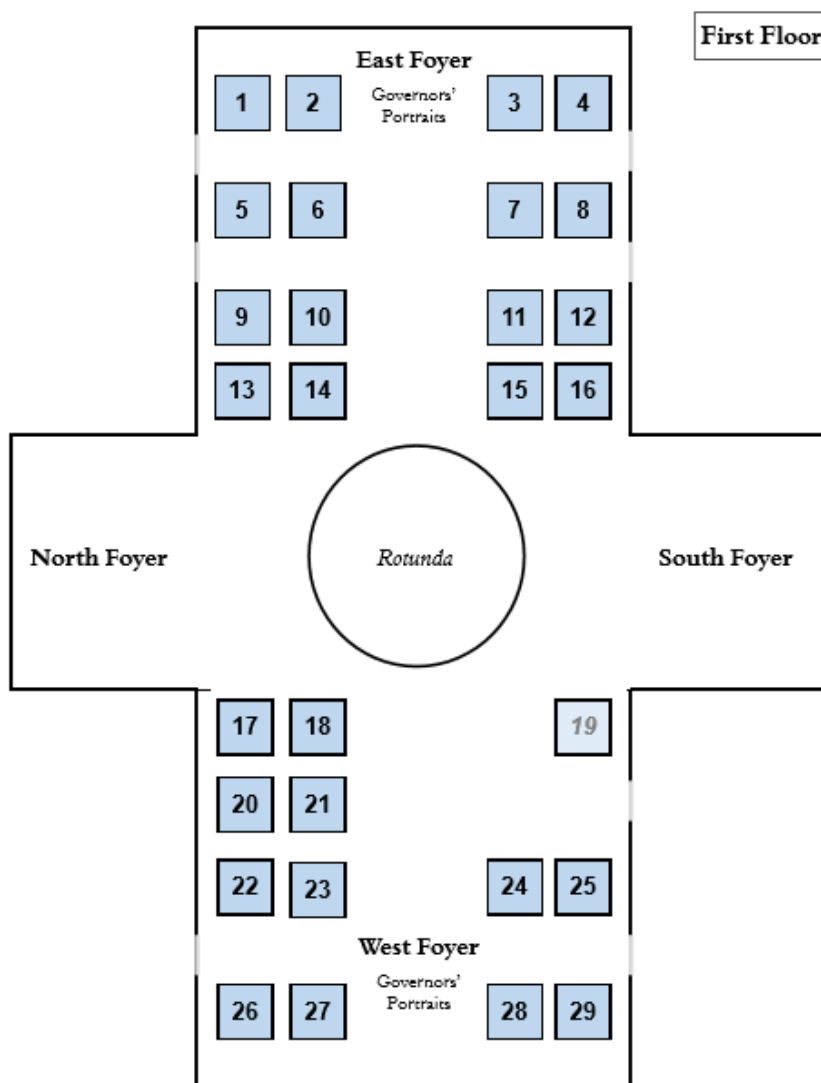
When a Colorado governor finishes his tenure, he often commissions and donates his portrait to the Capitol collection. (While men and women have run for governor of Colorado, as of 2021, only men have been elected.) Of the fifty governors who have served since the time of territorial Colorado, nine portraits have been on view in the West Foyer of the Capitol for years.

But twenty additional portraits now on view were rediscovered when cleaning crews worked to repair damage from a sub-basement flood at the Colorado State Archives in 2014. For years, the portraits sat in canvas bags in a narrow opening between a bookshelf and a wall. Discovered in varying condition after years of neglect, the portraits span 90 years.

Recently these portraits and their original frames underwent extensive restoration by the Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts and were installed in the east and west foyers by Bruce Marsden. Of the restored works, the earliest is of Territorial Governor Alexander Cummings (1865-1867) while the newest is of Governor Daniel Thornton (1951-1955). A portrait of Governor John Hickenlooper (2011-2019) is expected to soon join the collection.

Please see the map below to learn more about each of Colorado's governors from the Colorado State Archives.

Below is a list of governor portraits currently on view; note that the collection does not include all governors. For a full list of governors' profiles and records, please visit the [Colorado State Archives Governors' Collection website](#).



East Foyer

1. [Governor William Knous](#) 1947 to 1950, Democrat
2. [Governor Walter Johnson](#) 1950 to 1951, Democrat
3. [Governor Stephen McNichols](#) 1957 to 1963, Democrat
4. [Governor Daniel Thornton](#) 1955 to 1955, Republican
5. [Governor Ralph Carr](#) 1937 to 1943, Republican
6. [Governor John Vivian](#) 1943 to 1947, Republican
7. [Governor John Vanderhoof](#) 1973 to 1975, Republican
8. [Governor John Love](#) 1963 to 1973, Republican
9. [Governor Edwin Johnson](#) 1955 to 1957, Democrat
10. [Governor Teller Ammons](#) 1937 to 1939, Democrat
11. [Governor Roy Romer](#) 1987 to 1999, Democrat
12. [Governor Richard Lamm](#) 1975 to 1987, Democrat
13. [Governor Oliver Shoup](#) 1919 to 1923, Republican
14. [Governor Clarence Morley](#) 1925 to 1927, Republican
15. [Governor Bill Ritter](#) 2007 to 2011, Democrat
16. [Governor Bill Owens](#) 1999 to 2007, Republican