

Colorado Governors' Portraits

First floor – east and west foyers

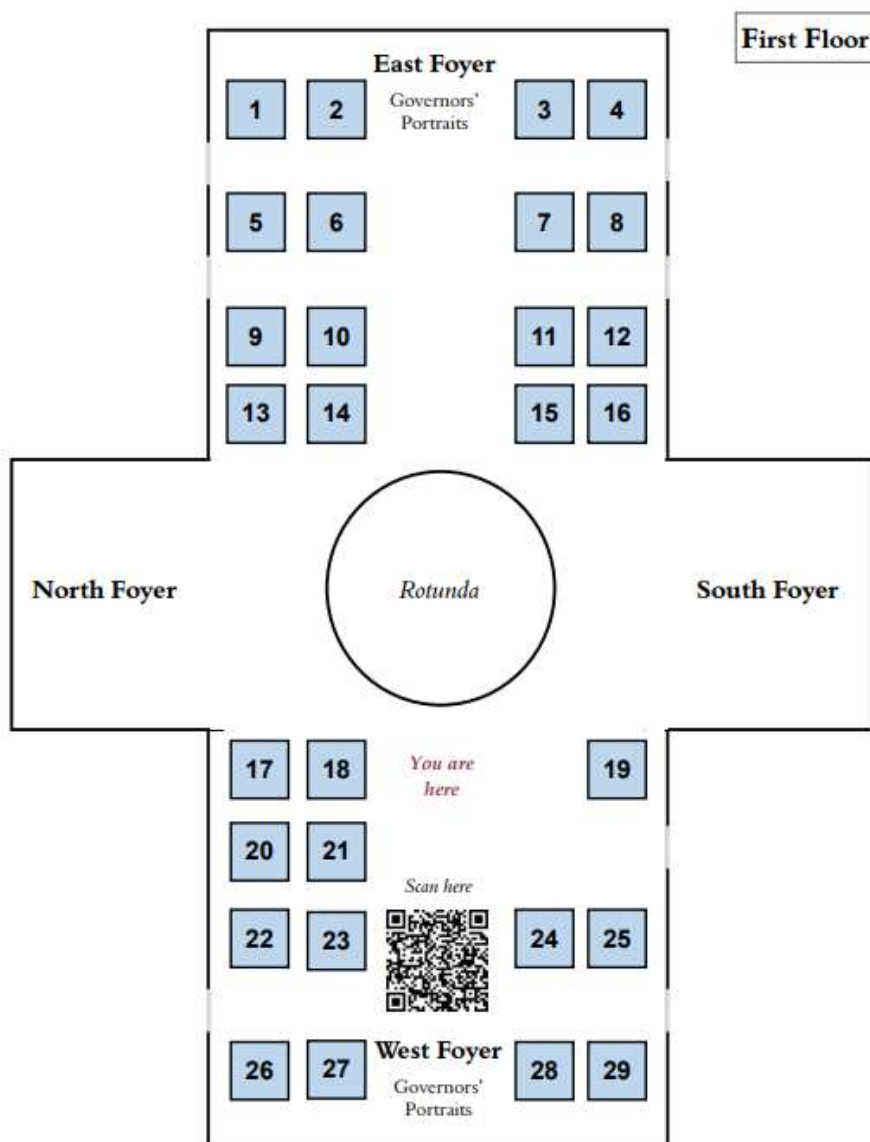
When a Colorado governor finishes his tenure, he often commissions and donates his portrait to the Capitol collection. (While men and women have run for governor of Colorado, as of 2021, only men have been elected.) Of the fifty governors who have served since the time of territorial Colorado, nine portraits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



West Foyer

17. [Governor George Carlson](#) 1915 to 1917, Democrat
18. [Governor Julius Gunter](#) 1917 to 1919, Democrat
19. [Governor John Hickenlooper](#) 2011 to 2019, Democrat
20. [Governor Henry Buchtel](#) 1907 to 1909, Republican
21. [Governor John Shafroth](#) 1909 to 1913, Democrat
22. [Governor James Peabody](#) 1903 to 1905, 1905 Republican
23. [Governor Jesse McDonald](#) 1905 to 1907, Republican
24. [Governor John Routt](#) territorial governor 1875 to 1876, state governor from 1876 to 1879, 1891 to 1893; Republican
25. [Territorial Governor Alexander Cummings](#) 1865 to 1867, Republican
26. [Governor Charles Thomas](#) 1899 to 1901, Democrat
27. [Governor James Orman](#) 1901 to 1903, Democrat
28. [Governor Alva Adams](#) 1887 to 1889, 1897 to 1899, and 1905; Democrat
29. [Governor Fredrick Pitkin](#) 1879 to 1883, Republican