

ALASKA STATE CAPITOL SELF-GUIDED TOUR



WELCOME

The Capitol Building in Alaska has served as the symbol and seat of government for more than 85 years, and continues to be a working Capitol today.

The building was completed in 1931 to serve as a Territorial and Federal Building. Cost of the land and building was approximately \$1 million. When Alaska became a state in 1959, the building was given to the state to serve as our Capitol.

In January 2017, a four-year, \$36 million renovation to the Capitol was completed. The renovations were necessary in order to retrofit the structure to resist seismic forces, improve energy efficiency, replace the original heating system, and restore the art deco exterior to its 1931 grandeur.

THE LOBBY

The marble used in the lobby and throughout the building is Tokeen and Gravina marble. The marble came from Prince of Wales Island, located south of Juneau near Ketchikan.

The bust is of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, an Alaska Native from Petersburg whose testimony before the 17th Territorial Legislature split the opposition and allowed the Alaska Civil Rights Act of 1945 to pass.

The artwork depicting life in the 1930's are stone fired clay murals by Joan Bugbee Jackson, an artist from Cordova. Harvest of the Sea shows fishermen on the Alaska coastal waters and Harvest of the Land depicts Alaska Natives hunting in Interior Alaska.



FIRST FLOOR

This area is primarily for Legislative offices and is not part of the tour.

SECOND FLOOR

Black and white photographs from the Winter and Pond collection are visible throughout this floor. The two busts



are of the first U.S. Senators from Alaska, Ernest Gruening and Bob Bartlett. Turn right from the elevators and proceed to

the Fahrenkamp Committee Room. The portrait is of former State Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp. The earrings under the portrait were worn by her during Senate floor sessions and mean "in one ear and out the other." On the wall to the left is the Seal of the State of Alaska, which is made of gold nuggets.

The Butrovich Committee Room is down the hall, and information about the room is available on a plaque outside the entrance. The audio teleconference equipment allows citizen participation from across the state.

At the end of the hall are the Senate Chambers. The handles on the doors leading into the Chambers are hand-cast brass in a totemic design representing an eagle, a whale and a bear. Enter the public gallery to view the Chambers.



The State Legislature has 20 Senators who serve four-year terms. 90-day legislative sessions are held annually beginning in January and ending in April. This room served as the Territorial Senate Chambers.

SECOND FLOOR (CONT'D)

Return past the elevator area and proceed down to the hall of the Speaker's Chambers.



Since Statehood, this room has been used by the Speaker of the House of Representa-

tives as an office and as a meeting room for the House Majority. The hand-stenciled ceiling dates back to the original construction of the building and is representative of the 1930's. The House of Representatives meet in the Chamber located at the end of the hall. Forty representatives serve in the House for two-year terms. Our 40 Representatives and 20 Senators serve a state population of 731,000.



THIRD FLOOR

The Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are on this floor. Alaska Natives from Haines carved two of the hallway doors from black birch. The carvings depict Alaska's major industries: tourism (Tlingit dancer); fishing and processing; wood products; mining; hunting and trapping; oil and gas.



The map of Alaska was cut from a piece of the 48-inch pipe used to construct the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The weld represents the 800-mile route of

the pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Down the hall toward the Lieutenant Governor's Office is the "Hall of Governors" which

THIRD FLOOR (CONT'D)

has photos of both Territorial and State Governors and Lieutenant Governors. Both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor serve four year terms and are limited to two consecutive.

FOURTH FLOOR

This area is primarily for Legislative offices and is not part of the tour.

FIFTH FLOOR

As you leave the elevators, you will see four panels with pictures representing the judicial districts of Territorial Alaska and a map of Alaska superimposed over the contiguous United States. Turn left from the elevators and proceed to the end of the hall. The Senate Finance Committee Room was originally the Superior Court of Judicial District One, and has been restored to its original look. The benches and lighting are from the original courtroom days.



ALASKA FACTS

Bird: Willow Ptarmigan

Fish: Chinook Salmon

Flower: Alpine Forget-Me-Not

Fossil: Woolly Mammoth

Gem: Jade

Insect: Four-Spot Skimmer Dragonfly

Land Mammal: Moose

Marine Mammal: Bowhead Whale

Mineral: Gold

Motto: North to the Future

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Song: Alaska's Flag

Sport: Dog Mushing

Tree: Sitka Spruce

ALASKA STATE FLAG



In 1926, Alaska students, grades 7-12, participated in a contest to design the territorial flag. The winning design submitted by a 13 year-old Alaska Native, Benny Benson, consisted of eight gold stars on a blue background. The stars represent the Big Dipper, or Great Bear, and symbolize strength. The North Star depicted future statehood. In 1927, the design was adopted as the official flag for the Territory of Alaska. In 1959, the drafters of the Alaska Constitution stipulated that the territorial flag would become the official state flag.

ALASKA STATE SONG

The words to the song Alaska's Flag were written by Marie Drake, a long-time employee of the Alaska Department of Education, and set to music composed by Elinor Dusenbury. The Territorial Legislature adopted Alaska's Flag as Alaska's official song in 1955.

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue,
Alaska's flag, May it mean to you,
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,
The mountain lakes, and the flowers nearby,
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,
The precious gold of the hills and streams,
The brilliant stars in the northern sky,
The "Bear," the "Dipper," and, shining high,
The great North Star with its steady light,
O'er land and sea a beacon bright,
Alaska's flag to Alaskans dear,
The simple flag of a last frontier.