

# Through These Doors

*A Self-Guided Tour of the  
Arkansas State Capitol*

Welcome to the Arkansas State Capitol! I take great pride in the history that embraces this building and find it a rare privilege to be able to share it with you. One of my most important duties as Secretary of State is maintaining and preserving the rich history of the Arkansas State Capitol. Since 1915, this building has been the center of Arkansas' state government. In addition to being a beautiful historic landmark, the Capitol is both a handsome historic structure and a vital working building, official home to six constitutional officers and over three hundred civil servants in the Legislative and Executive branches. It is my privilege to be one of them.



I hope you enjoy your time at the Arkansas State Capitol. Please feel free to stop by the Capitol Tourist Information Center with any additional questions or comments that you may have. You are always welcome to come back with your friends and family for another visit.

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin  
Arkansas Secretary of State

# General Tour Information

Welcome to the Arkansas State Capitol! Please sign the guest register at the Visitor Information Center. The Capitol Building is open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on weekends. Elevators are located in the east lobby, and photographs are allowed in tour areas.

## Capitol Directory (Areas in bold detailed in brochure)

### **First Floor**

Visitor Services Center  
Exhibit Cases  
*Great Seal Display*  
State Capitol Police Desk  
State Land Commissioner - Room 109  
Gift Shop  
Post Office  
*Mentors and Models* Exhibit - North Entry

### **Second Floor**

Governor's Office - Room 250  
Secretary of State's Office - Room 256  
**State Treasurer's Office - Room 220**  
State Auditor's Office - Room 230  
Lieutenant Governor's Office - Room 270  
**Governor's Reception Room - North End**  
**Rotunda - Center and Bronze Doors**  
**Old Supreme Court Chamber - South End**

### **Third Floor**

**Senate Chamber - South**  
**House Chamber - North**  
*Building Forever* Exhibit  
Snack Stand

### **Fourth Floor**

Senate Gallery - South  
House Gallery - North  
*Arkansans at War* Exhibit  
*Arkansans Through the Years,*  
*By the Numbers* Exhibit  
*State Symbols* Exhibit

### **Lower Level**

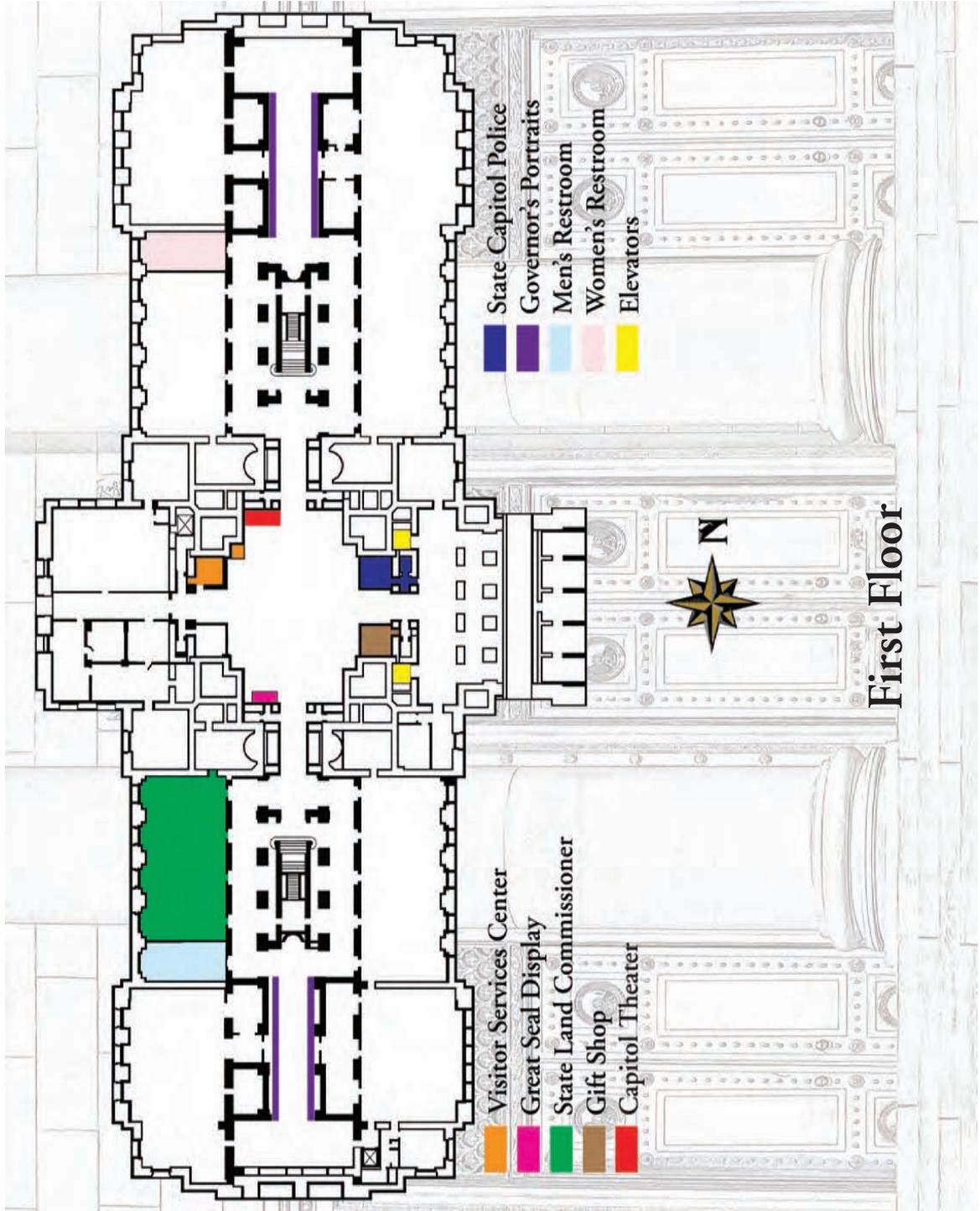
Lower Level Gallery  
Capitol Café  
Capitol Salon

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## Other Points of Interest

The Capitol Theater features continuous informational videos about the construction history of the State Capitol and the famous people, places and events of Arkansas history. *First Floor Rotunda*

A self-guided tour of the beautiful Capitol Grounds is available at the Visitor Information Center. It offers information about the history of the property, highlights of the seasonal landscaping and descriptions of monuments.



# The First Floor

## Construction History

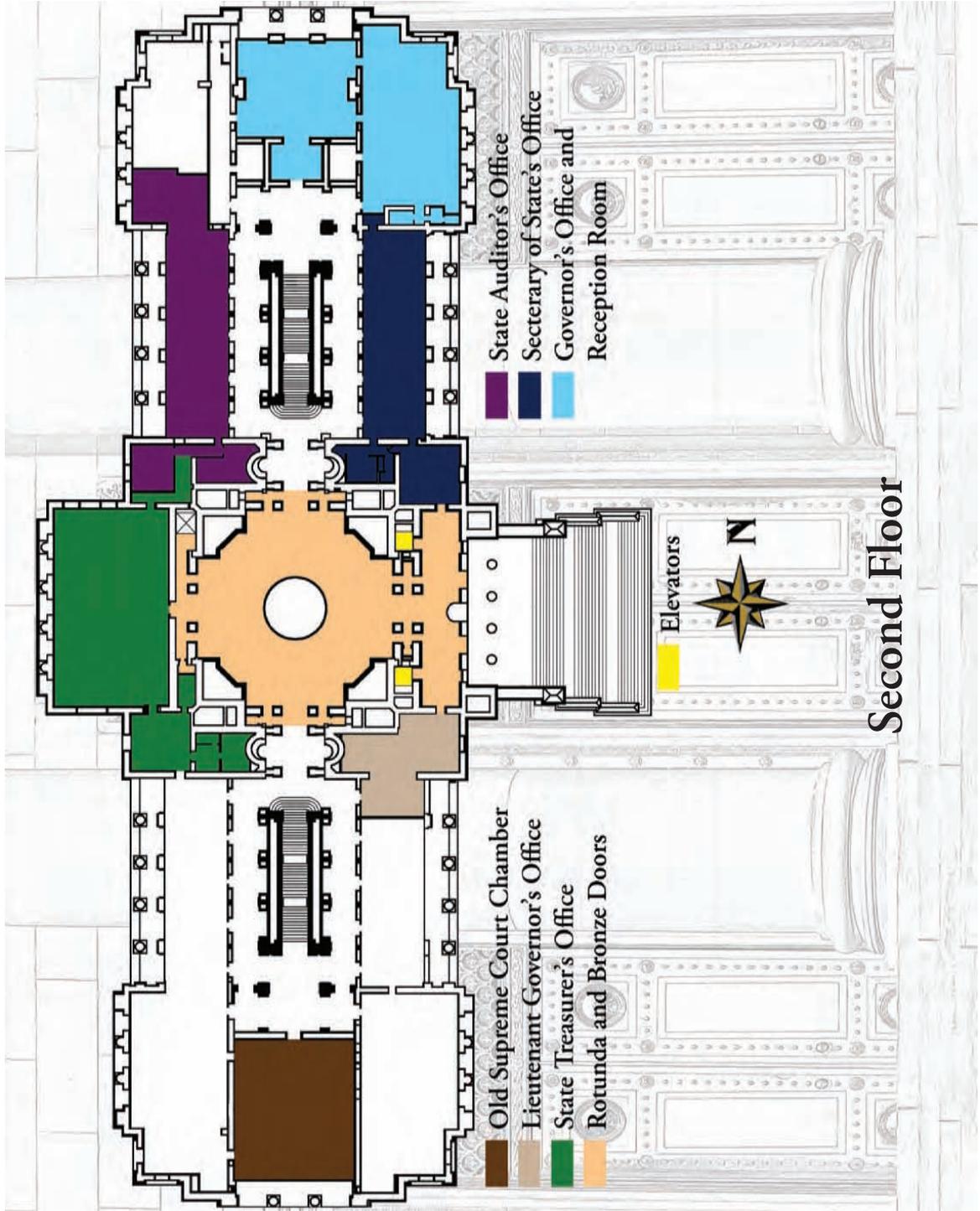
The Arkansas State Capitol was constructed between 1899 and 1915 on the site of the old state penitentiary using prison labor. The original construction cost was not to exceed \$1 million. After two architects, two general contractors, six Capitol Commissions and three governors, the completed Capitol cost almost \$2.3 million. The Capitol shares its neo-classical style with many monumental public buildings of its period. The marble on the floors and walls came from Vermont, the columns from Colorado, and the grand staircases from Alabama. The exterior limestone was quarried near Batesville, Arkansas, while a softer Indiana limestone was used for the dome. The Capitol contains 287,000 square feet. The distance from ground level to the top of the cupola is 213 feet. The cupola is covered in gold leaf.



## Exhibits and Displays

Displayed throughout the Capitol are portraits of Arkansas's past Governors. In the north and south corridors are four exhibit cases featuring changing exhibits interpreting Arkansas's history and events.

Located on the south wall of the rotunda is a stained glass interpretation of the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas. Adopted by the state legislature in 1874, the seal contains 16 elements, each representing a connection with Arkansas. The eagle holds a scroll inscribed with the state's motto *Regnat Populus*, meaning "The People Rule." Its talons grasp a bundle of arrows representing war and an olive branch representing peace. Symbols of Arkansas's 19th century industries are contained on the shield covering the breast of the eagle. The steamboat represents the importance of water commerce along the state's rivers, and other symbols celebrate the importance of agriculture in Arkansas. The Goddess of Liberty crowning the seal holds a wreath and a pole topped by a liberty cap, all surrounded by a circle of stars. An angel on the left signifies "Mercy" and the sword on the right represents "Justice."



- Old Supreme Court Chamber
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- State Treasurer's Office
- Rotunda and Bronze Doors

- State Auditor's Office
- Secretary of State's Office
- Governor's Office and Reception Room

Elevators



Second Floor

## Governor's Reception Room *(2nd Floor, North End)*

### Architecture

Restored in 2000 to its 1915 appearance, the Governor's Reception Room is used by the Governor to meet with staff, reporters, members of the public and to sign bills into law. The room is in the Craftsman style, an interior design style that emphasizes natural materials. At each end of the room are fireplace mantels carved from Batesville limestone. The west mantel has carvings that represent European settlers; the east mantel's carvings bear the likenesses of Native Americans. These two groups were the first inhabitants of Arkansas, therefore a rich part of its heritage. The chandelier, sconces and candelabra are original to the room, along with the quarter-sawn oak paneling. The wall and ceiling finishes are duplicates of the original decorative painting. Above the east mantel is the portrait of the preceding Governor to serve in office. A door in the northeast corner of the room opens to the Governor's private office.



### Governor George Donaghey

Above the west mantel is a portrait of George Donaghey, the first governor to serve in the State Capitol. Governor Donaghey was instrumental in the completion of the new Arkansas State Capitol. At one point, Arkansas legislators risked leaving the Capitol unfinished because of a lack of necessary funding. Donaghey ran on the platform that if elected governor, he would ensure the Capitol would be completed. The walnut table in the center of the room was made from a tree that Donaghey's father planted on their family farm in Conway. Donaghey selected the tree and craftsmen to build the table and presented it to the Capitol to commemorate the state's 100th birthday.

## The Rotunda *(2nd Floor, center)*

Public meetings, speeches, hearings and rallies are held in this grand central space. Suspended from the ceiling by a 73-foot chain, the rotunda chandelier weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is approximately 12 feet in diameter and 18 feet in height. One of several light fixtures fashioned for the Capitol by the Mitchell-Vance Company of New York, the rotunda chandelier is an intricate assembly of literally thousands of brass, copper, zinc, iron and glass parts.



## Decorative Elements

The Treasurer's Office, on the west side of the rotunda, contains a large vault secured by four doors and three time locks. The massive main vault door was difficult to move inside the Capitol. The 11-ton door was shipped by train and placed on a wagon to bring it into the building. The wagon sank into the soil under the weight, which prompted the workers to lay down tracks to move the door into place through the window using a block and tackle. Today the vault only holds small amounts of cash, and its purpose is mainly decorative and ceremonial. Portraits of past governors featured in the rotunda areas include one of former Governor Bill Clinton, Arkansas's native son elected President of the United States. The six 10-foot-tall east front bronze doors located on the eastern front, opposite the Treasurer's office, were purchased from Tiffany's in 1910 for \$10,000.



# Old Supreme Court Chamber *(2nd Floor, South End)*

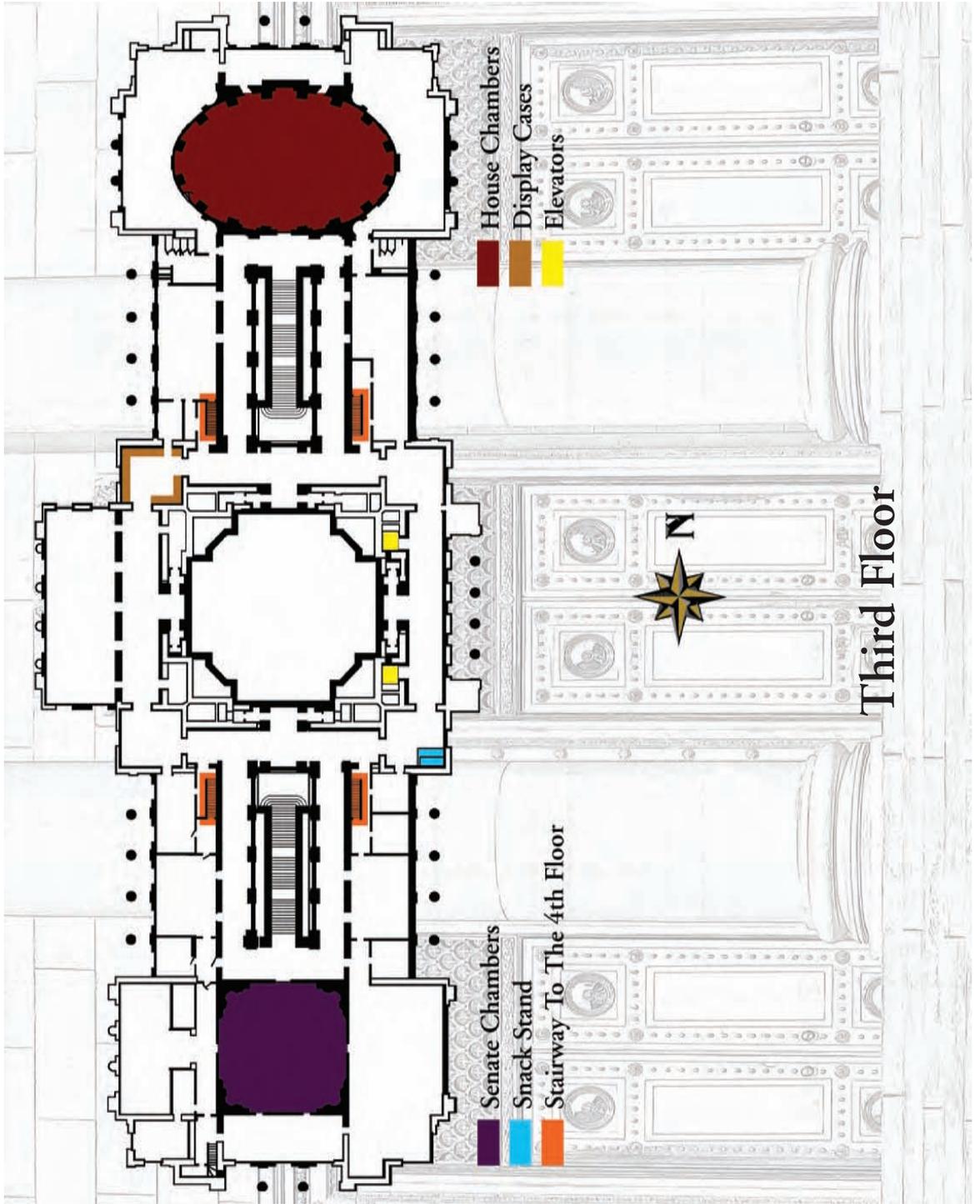
## Function

The Arkansas Supreme Court met in this chamber from 1912 through 1958. Because of increased case loads and other considerations, the Supreme Court moved to the Justice Building on the southwest corner of the Capitol complex. The chamber is now used for legislative committee meetings and lectures. The public uses the chairs that surround the outside of the mahogany rail, while seats inside the rail are used for committee members, staff and the press.

## Restoration

In 2000, the chamber was restored to its 1912 appearance. Original furnishings in the room include the brass hand rails, the mahogany partition, the light fixtures, ornamental plaster, the Justices' bench and their seven chairs. The reproduced carpet, curtains and chairs mimic those originally found in the room. Symbols illustrating the principles of justice are featured on the ceiling frieze: the green shield, a symbol of defense, represents purity and masculinity; the gray shield decorated with a dolphin and anchor represents prudence and truth; and the terra cotta oil lamp is a symbol of enlightenment.

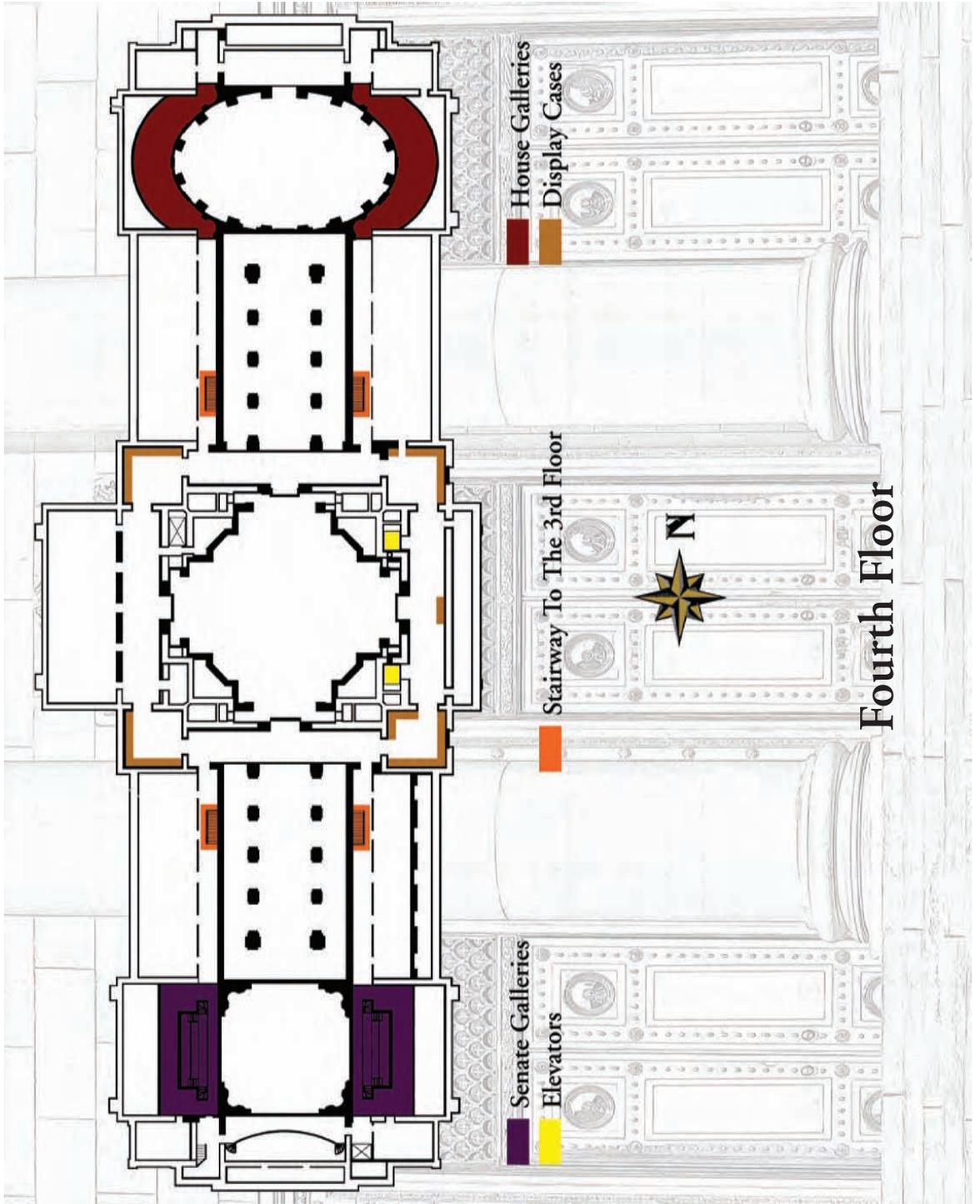




House Chambers  
Display Cases  
Elevators

Senate Chambers  
Snack Stand  
Stairway To The 4th Floor

Third Floor



House Galleries

Display Cases

Stairway To The 3rd Floor

Senate Galleries

Elevators

Fourth Floor



## Senate Chamber *(3rd Floor, South End; Public Gallery, 4th Floor)*

### Legislative Body

There are 35 senators in the Arkansas State Senate and they each represent approximately 74,000 people. Arkansas senators may serve a maximum of two four-year terms. The seating arrangement in the Senate is determined by seniority. The Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Senate and sits at the marble desk at the front of the room. The President Pro Tempore is elected by fellow senators to preside over the senate on occasions when the Lieutenant Governor is absent. Senate votes are taken by roll call. When a senator's name is called, he or she responds with a yea or nay vote; then the votes are tallied and the result is read aloud. The General Assembly, consisting of Arkansas's House and Senate, meets in regular session beginning the second Monday in January in each odd-numbered year. The regular session lasts for a minimum of 60 days, but can be extended by a two-thirds vote of both chambers. Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly also convenes for a fiscal session beginning the second Monday of February in each even-numbered year. This session lasts for a minimum of 30 days and may be extended up to 15 days by a three-fourths vote of both chambers. The governor may also call a special session if specific issues need to be addressed in the interim.

### Decorative Features

The paint finishes in the room are reproductions of the originals, and the furniture was crafted to resemble the original desks. In 1914, stained glass was added to the dome to reduce the sun's glare; the drapes were added to improve acoustics. The chandelier in the Senate is the smallest of the Mitchell-Vance fixtures purchased for the Capitol. Outside the chamber and galleries hang composite portraits of past Arkansas legislatures.



## House Chamber *(3rd Floor, North End; Public Gallery, 4th Floor)*

### Legislative Body

Arkansas has 100 representatives, each representing approximately 26,000 people, who may serve a maximum of three two-year terms. Ninety-nine of the representatives sit on the chamber floor. The seating, as in the Senate, is determined by seniority. The 100th representative serves as the Speaker of the House and is seated by the U. S. flag at the tall rostrum in the front of the room. Fellow members of the House elect the Speaker for a two-year term.



Next to the Speaker sits the Parliamentarian who interprets parliamentary procedure for each session. The chairs below the Speaker are reserved for clerks.

### Voting Procedure

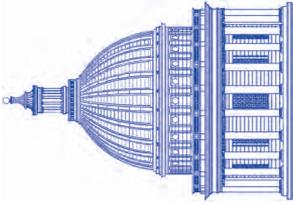
Representatives use the buttons at their desks to transmit votes to the chamber's electronic voting system. The green

button transmits a “yea” vote; the red a “nay” vote; and the yellow signals the member is present, but not voting. Votes are displayed on the screens at the front of the chamber, and then tallied electronically to show the final vote totals.

### Architectural Elements

The columns and pilasters in the chamber are finished with a faux marble art form known as scagliola, a technique which uses gypsum, glue, pigment and marble dust to simulate the look of marble. The gilded columns and other features were restored in 2009. The stained glass and drapes in the House dome, as in the Senate, were added in 1914 to reduce glare and temper the chamber's acoustics.





# Downtown Little Rock Attractions

1. **Arkansas Arts Center**, 10th & Commerce
2. **Central Arkansas Library System, Cox Creative Center**, 120 Commerce
3. **Central High School Historic Site & Museum**, 2125 Daisy Bates Drive
4. **EMOBA: The Black Museum of Arkansas and Performing Arts**, 1208 Louisiana
5. **Governor's Mansion**, 17th & Center
6. **Heifer International**, One World Ave.
7. **Historic Arkansas Museum**, 200 E. 3rd
8. **Little Rock Marker, La Petit Roche**, North end of Rock Street in Riverfront Park
9. **Little Rock Visitor Information Center at Curran Hall**, 615 E. Capitol
10. **MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History**, 503 E. 9th Street
11. **Mt. Holly Cemetery**, 12th & Broadway
12. **Museum of Discovery**, 500 President Clinton Avenue
13. **Old State House Museum**, 300 W. Markham
14. **River Market, Dining, Arts & Entertainment District**, President Clinton Ave.
15. **Statehouse Convention Center**, Markham & Main
16. **William J. Clinton Presidential Center & Park**, 1200 President Clinton Ave.
17. **Arkansas State Capitol**, Capitol & Woodlane
18. **Pulaski County Court House**, Markham & Spring
19. **Municipal Parking Garage**, Markham & Spring
20. **Mosaic Templars Cultural Center**, Broadway and 9th Street
21. **Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center**, 602 President Clinton Avenue
22. **Junction Pedestrian Bridge**
23. **River Market Parking Garage**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Commerce

*Compliments of*

**Office of the Arkansas Secretary of State**

Map courtesy of *Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau*



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