

California State Assembly

VISITORS
MAY VIEW ASSEMBLY
& SENATE CHAMBERS
FROM THE GALLERIES
ON THE THIRD FLOOR



“Aquí tiene su casa”

In colorful Old California of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, this warm Spanish greeting meant “please consider this your own home.”

The members of the California State Assembly want to express this same welcome to you in your visit with us here in Sacramento.

You will find much of the charm and romantic trappings of the past still here while the wheels of modern representative government hum along in keeping pace with the complex demands of today. This is the same Capitol to which eccentric, self-proclaimed “Emperor Norton I,” in full uniform, came up from San Francisco to inspect in 1869. While his findings then caused him to issue a proclamation that he wanted the streets spruced up, today’s problems concern such matters as space age readiness and data storage systems, sufficient water for a thirsty state, and education for millions of youngsters.

In these few pages, we hope you will find both a helpful guide to knowing and understanding California’s Legislature and Capitol, and a small, but valuable, addition to your library at home, office, or school.

First, we open the doors to the Assembly for you on the opposite page. Please come in!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesse M. Unruh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jesse" and last name "Unruh" clearly legible.

JESSE M. UNRUH
Speaker of the Assembly

LEGISLATORUM EST
IUSTAS LEGES CONDERE.



"MR. SPEAKER"

The visitor to the California State Assembly Chamber today does not have to close his eyes to visualize what it must have looked like almost 100 years ago. The visitors of that day entered the same gallery to watch the first session and hear the first call of "Mr. Speaker" from an Assemblyman seeking recognition to be heard. The same elegant vastness and "General Grant" decorative motif, with carved moldings, plaster ornaments, and gold leaf, caught the eye of the lavishly dressed ladies and gentlemen who crowded the limited gallery space on December 6, 1869. The same thick columns, painted to resemble dusky red sienna marble, soared some 35 feet up from the floor of the chamber to the ceiling. The desks now on the floor were in use then. The same green color theme coated the interior, as red did in the Senate Chamber on the other side of the Capitol building.

Despite the addition through the years of such modern conveniences as fluorescent lighting and air conditioning, the Assembly Chamber has managed to retain the charm and subdued elegance of the fascinating era of the California of a century ago when river boats came up from San Francisco with a passenger list that regularly included bankers, generals, miners, and adventurers. It also has been guided over the years by the gold-lettered motto on the wall above the Speaker's rostrum and framed portrait of Abraham Lincoln: "Legislatorum Est Justas Leges Condere," or "It is the duty of legislators to make just laws."

THE MEMBERSHIP

The Assembly is composed of 80 members elected for two-year terms from the same number of Assembly districts throughout the state. The Senate has 40 members elected for four-year terms from Senatorial districts, with half the membership elected every two years. Elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. Assemblymen and Senators must be citizens of the United States. They also must be residents of California for three years and of their district for one year immediately preceding their election.

THE SESSIONS

The Assembly and the Senate meet annually, as required by the Constitution. The regular session starts at noon on the first Monday after January 1. Sessions have no time limit and the Legislature can consider bills on any subject. The Governor may convene the Legislature in special session by proclamation on "extraordinary occasions." In such cases, it may only act on the subjects specified in the proclamation. The Legislature reconvenes 30 days after the end of a regular session to reconsider any bills vetoed by the Governor. Approved bills go into effect 60 days after the end of a regular session and 90 days after a special session.

The Assembly usually meets in the mornings and the Senate in the afternoons during the sessions. Committee hearings of each house are customarily scheduled for the hours of the day when the committee members are not on the floor in session.



Carlos Bee
Speaker pro Tempore



George N. Zenovich
Majority Floor Leader



Robert T. Monagan
Minority Floor Leader

THE OFFICERS

Presiding over the Assembly on the elevated rostrum is the Speaker. He is elected each session by majority vote from among the members, as is the Speaker pro Tempore who assists the Speaker in presiding over the House. A Majority Floor Leader for the dominant political party is appointed by the Speaker, and a Minority Floor Leader is selected by the members of the opposing party. The Speaker appoints all committee chairmen and all committee members, except six on the Rules Committee who are nominated by party caucuses and approved by the Assembly. He also assigns all bills to committees. The seven-member Rules Committee administers Assembly business affairs.

The staff at the desks just below the Speaker processes all bills and resolutions through the Assembly. It is under the direction of the Chief Clerk, elected by the members, who serves as the parliamentarian and keeps a record of all business transacted during the sessions. He is responsible for the printing of all publications and documents for the sessions. A Sergeant at Arms, elected by the members, maintains order in the Assembly Chamber and meeting rooms.

The Senate follows the same general procedures, except that the popularly elected Lieutenant Governor of the state, not a Senate member, serves as President of the Senate and presides over its sessions.

RULES COMMITTEE



Joe A. Gonsalves
Chairman



Carl A. Britschgi
Vice Chairman



John L. Burton



Ray E. Johnson



John P. Quimby



Leo J. Ryan



Newton R. Russell

SEATING IN ASSEMBLY CHAMBER 1967-68 SESSIONS

James T. Doyle
Sound Panel

Jesse M.
Unruh
Speaker

Carlos Bee
Speaker pro
Tempore

Rev. Robert R.
Ferguson
Chaplain

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

Willoughby
Lyons
History Clerk

R. Brian
Kidney
Assistant
Chief Clerk

Reading

Clerk

Anabel
Whang
Minute Clerk

James D.
Driscoll
Chief Clerk

Candace
Jackson
Secretary to
Chief Clerk

Ruth Riley
File Clerk

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

Robert W. Crown
(Alameda)

John T. Knox
(Richmond)

Leroy F. Greene
(Sacramento)

Carl A. Britschgi
(Redwood City)

Winfield A.
Shoemaker
(Lompoc)

George N.
Zenovich
(Fresno)

William T.
Bagley
(San Rafael)

Patrick D.
McGee
(Sherman Oaks)

Charles W.
Meyers
(San Francisco)

Frank P. Belotti
(Eureka)

Ken MacDonald
(Ventura)

Lester A.
McMillan
(Los Angeles)

Willie L.
Brown, Jr.
(San Francisco)

Mike Cullen
(Long Beach)

George W.
Millas
(Gilroy)

Edwin L. Z'berg
(Sacramento)

Yvonne W.
Brathwaite
(Los Angeles)

Leo J. Ryan
(South
San Francisco)

Bob Moretti
(North
Hollywood)

David A. Roberti
(Los Angeles)

Ray E. Johnson
(Chico)

Victor V. Veysey
(Brawley)

Charles J.
Conrad
(Sherman Oaks)

Robert E.
Badham
(Costa Mesa)

Gordon W. Duffy
(Hanford)

William Campbell
(Hacienda
Heights)

Kenneth Cory
(Anaheim)

John
Vasconcellos
(San Jose)

Wadie P. Deddeh
(Chula Vista)

W. Craig Biddle
(Riverside)

E. Richard
Barnes
(San Diego)

John Stull
(Encinitas)

David Negri
(San Fernando)

Leon Ralph
(Los Angeles)

Pauline L. Davis
(Portola)

L. E. Townsend
(Torrance)

Robert H. Burke
(Huntington
Beach)

James W. Dent
(Concord)

Kent H. Stacey
(Bakersfield)

Stewart
Hinckley
(Redlands)

Tony Beard
Sergeant at Arms

Robert T.
Monagan
(Tracy)

Don Mulford
(Oakland)

Joe A.
Gonsalves
(La Mirada)

Edward E. Elliott
(Los Angeles)

Vincent Thomas
(San Pedro)

Carley V. Porter
(Compton)

Alan G. Pattee
(Salinas)

John G.
Veneman
(Modesto)

John Francis
Foran
(San Francisco)

Eugene A.
Chappie
(Cool)

Walter W.
Powers
(Sacramento)

John L. E.
Collier
(Los Angeles)

Frank Lanterman
(La Canada)

Peter F.
Schabarum
(Covina)

John V. Briggs
(Fullerton)

(1)

Alan Sieroty
(Los Angeles)

Charles Warren
(Los Angeles)

Newton R.
Russell
(Tujunga)

Jack R. Fenton
(Montebello)

March K. Fong
(Oakland)

Carlos J.
Moorhead
(Glendale)

Bill Greene
(Los Angeles)

John P. Quimby
(Rialto)

Ernest N.
Mobley
(Fresno)

John F. Dunlap
(Vallejo)

Frank
Murphy, Jr.
(Santa Cruz)

Earle P.
Crandall
(San Jose)

Frederick
James Bear
(San Diego)

Paul Priolo
(West Los
Angeles)

John J. Miller
(Oakland)

Pete Wilson
(San Diego)

William M.
Ketchum
(Paso Robles)

Harvey Johnson
(El Monte)

Walter J.
Karabian
(Monterey Park)

James A. Hayes
(Long Beach)

Floyd L.
Wakefield
(Huntington
Park)

Carlos Bee
(Hayward)

John L. Burton
(San Francisco)

Jesse M. Unruh
(Inglewood)

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

(1) Vacancy. Charles E. Chapel (Palos Verdes Estates). Deceased, February 20, 1967.





Assembly Clerks

THE ASSEMBLY AT WORK

The Assembly usually meets in the mornings, with committee meetings held in the afternoons. However, afternoon and evening Assembly meetings are common when the workload accumulates. Sessions are inclined to be short because necessary organizational work by key leaders is going on, and bills are being referred to committees for preliminary study.

Some of the activity on the floor is necessary daily routine. For this reason, at times members will be away from their desks or not on the floor. Some may be in caucuses, which are informal meetings of members of one political party, or perhaps testifying for their own bills before Senate committees. Others may be involved in

hurried conferences with other members, or be seeing constituents or groups from their home districts who are visiting the Capitol. Some of the informal conferences on controversial issues will occur on the floor itself. Press, radio, and television correspondents assigned to the Assembly have been allocated desks along the sides of the chamber floor so that they can follow closely the session business.

Much of the decision-making and evaluation of bills, or proposed laws, is done by standing committees which specialize in researching subjects such as agriculture, public health, revenue and taxation, and military and veterans affairs. These committees hold hearings in which they take testimony from the general public for and against proposed bills. The committees then vote and report back to the Assembly on their decisions. Usually the Assembly vote will follow the recommendations of its committees. However, the members who support or oppose bills will often speak on controversial measures in attempts to influence the final vote by the entire Assembly.

To become law, an Assembly Bill must also be approved by the Senate and signed by the Governor. If the Governor refuses to sign it, the bill can become law through a two-thirds vote by both houses overriding his veto. Constitutional amendments and bond issues must be approved by the electorate.

When the Assembly is not in session, interim committees continue to study proposed legislation, holding public hearings throughout the state. They report their conclusions back to the next regular session.

Bills must be read three times on three different days on the floor before they can be voted upon. Some bills never reach the floor for the required third reading because they are refused approval by the committees. These bills are said to have been "killed."

Resolutions seeking to place opinions and commendations by the Assembly on record are considered and voted upon during Assembly sessions.



Committee Hearing

THE VOTING

The members are seated at desks facing the Speaker. Their desks, topped by green leather, have individual microphones on folding arms. When a member wishes to address the Assembly, he pushes his microphone up. When he is recognized by the Speaker, the operator at a master control board opens the sound system to the member's microphone and lights up a small red bulb on its folding arm as a signal that it is "live."

The members usually vote through electric scoreboards at the front of the chamber. By moving a toggle switch at their desks, they indicate "yes" or "no" votes through the lighting up of green or red bulbs alongside their names on the boards. These votes are automatically totaled. A permanent punch card record also is made of the vote.

A majority vote (41) of the elected members will pass all but urgency and appropriation bills, or proposed constitutional amendments. These require a two-thirds vote (54). In the Senate, voting is done by voice roll call. It takes 21 votes to pass an ordinary bill and 27 to pass the others.

PUBLICATIONS

Three daily publications are printed by the Assembly during the session. The Daily Journal has a chronological account of the daily proceedings. It includes roll calls upon all actions which require a recorded vote. The Daily History lists in numerical order all bills and resolutions introduced, their authors and titles, and the action on each one. The Daily File shows the order in which bills will be considered. It also lists committee meetings and which bills are scheduled to be heard that day by those committees. The Daily File is available before the session. The other two are printed after the session and delivered to the offices of the members the following morning. The Senate has similar publications.

Copies of these publications and of bills and resolutions are available at the Legislative Bill Room, Room 215, between the Assembly and Senate Chambers in the Capitol.

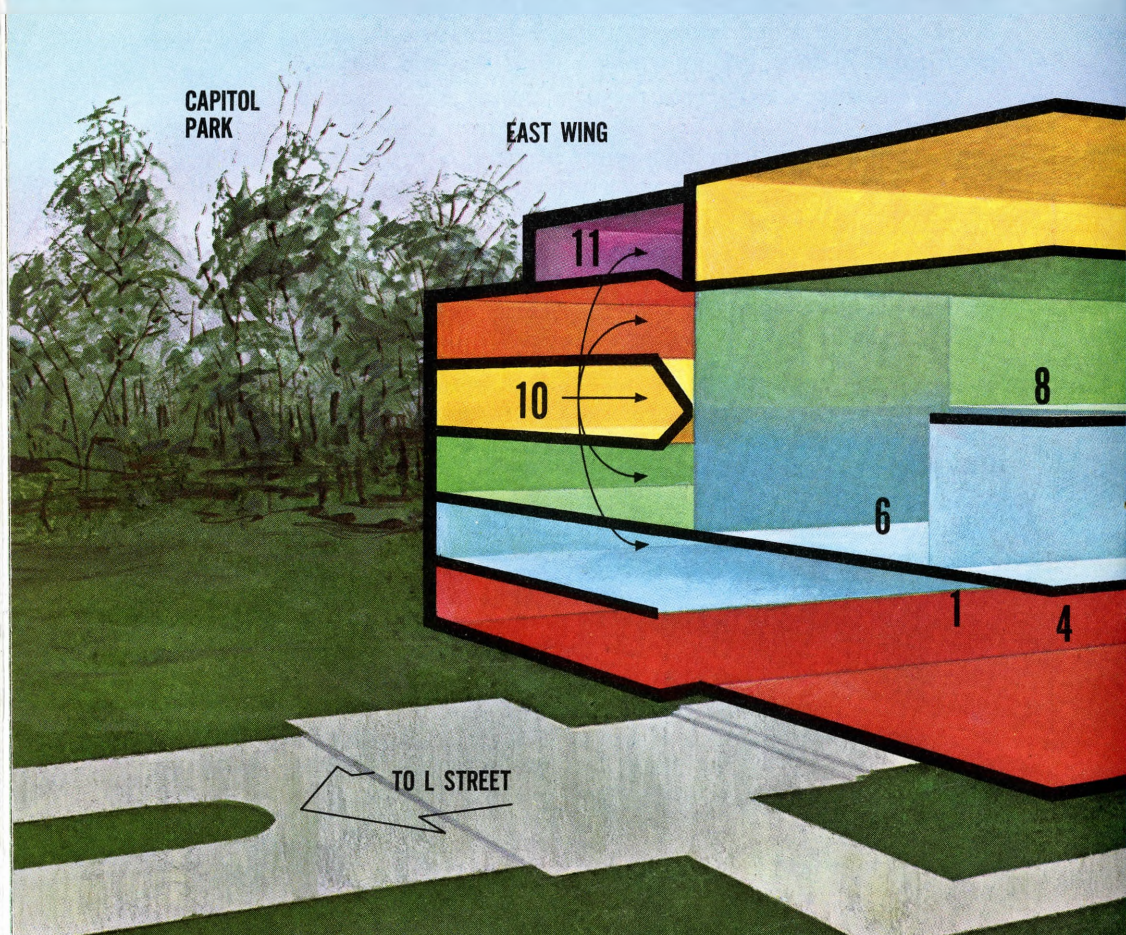
DIAGRAM OF CAPITOL

This diagram will indicate some of the other interesting points you can visit while at the Capitol. You will certainly want to spend some time in the beautiful chamber of the Senate, the other house of the Legislature, one of the most picturesque lawmaking rooms in the world. You should also stroll along the paths of Capitol Park with its flower gardens, goldfish pond, and trees and plants from all corners of the earth.

The present Capitol is actually two buildings combined. A new East Wing was completed in 1954. It has six floors, while the old Capitol has four with high ceilings. The basements and first floors of the two buildings, and the second floor of the old Capitol building and third floor of the East Wing, are on the same level. Stairways and elevators link up the others.

The original Capitol building was occupied in 1869, nine years after the groundbreaking, and completed in 1874. It was modeled largely on the National Capitol in Washington.

The seat of the state government was first established in San Jose in 1849. It also was located in Benicia, Vallejo, and San Francisco for brief periods.



- 1 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
- 2 INFORMATION BOOTH
- 3 POST OFFICE
- 4 COUNTY DISPLAYS
- 5 ROTUNDA



FIRST
FLOOR

- 6 ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
- 7 SENATE CHAMBER
- 8 ASSEMBLY GALLERY
- 9 SENATE GALLERY



SECOND
FLOOR



THIRD
FLOOR

- 10 ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OFFICES
- 11 CAFETERIA
- 12 STATE SEAL



FLOORS 2-6
6TH FLOOR





BEAR FLAG

The Bear Flag was adopted by the 1911 State Legislature as the State Flag of California. It is patterned after the historic flag raised at Sonoma on June 14, 1846, by a group of American settlers in revolt against Mexican rule. The flag was designed by William Todd on a piece of new unbleached cotton. The star imitated the lone star of Texas. A grizzly bear represented the many bears seen in the state. The words "California Republic" were placed beneath the star and bear. The Bear Flag was replaced on July 9, 1846, by the American Flag. The original flag was destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

STATE SEAL

The Great Seal of the State of California was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1849. The Roman Goddess of Wisdom, Minerva, has at her



feet a grizzly bear and clusters of grapes representing wildlife and agricultural richness. A miner works near the busy Sacramento River, below the Sierra Nevada peaks. The Greek motto "Eureka" (I have found it) probably refers to either the miner's discovery of gold or the expected entrance of California as a state of the Union. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars representing the number of states with California's anticipated admission in 1850. This glass replica of the seal is in the Secretary of State's office in the Capitol.



STATE FLOWER

The Golden Poppy was selected as the official State Flower of California by the 1903 State Legislature. Also sometimes known as "The Flame Flower," "La Amapola," and "Copa de Oro" (Cup of Gold), it grows wild throughout the state.

STATE TREE

The California Redwood was designated as the official State Tree of California by the 1937 State Legislature. Common in the geologic past throughout much of the northern hemisphere, it is now found only on the Pacific Coast. Many groves and stands of the towering trees are preserved in State and national parks and forests. There are two species. The Sierra Redwood is found in the Sierra Nevada mountain region. The Coast Redwood grows in the mountains and valleys along the central and northern coast of California and the southern coastal edge of Oregon. The Coast Redwood is the tallest known tree in the world, reaching heights in excess of 360 feet in California's Humboldt County. The Sierra Redwood is the world's most massive tree, with trunk diameters occasionally reaching 35 feet.





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