

Welcome

TO THE
WASHINGTON
STATE
CAPITOL

North Vestibule



Marcus Whitman

Six large cast bronze doors each bear a relief image of early industry and scenic beauty of Washington State. Just inside the building stand two statues which are replicas of those placed in Statuary Hall of our nation's capitol in Washington D.C. The first is of Marcus Whitman, a trained physician, who was instrumental in bringing settlers to Washington.

The second symbolizes Mother Joseph who was responsible for construction of many hospitals and other social service institutions in the Northwest. In the center of the vestibule, beneath the marble floor, is a time

capsule containing publications and artifacts from Washington State in the year 1976. Beautiful gray marble in the vestibule, throughout the public hallways and rotunda is from Alaska.



Mother Joseph

Second Floor

You are welcome to visit the four executive offices located on the second (main) floor of this building. The offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Lieutenant Governor are open to the public on weekdays and visitors may often view art or historical exhibits in lobby areas of each office.

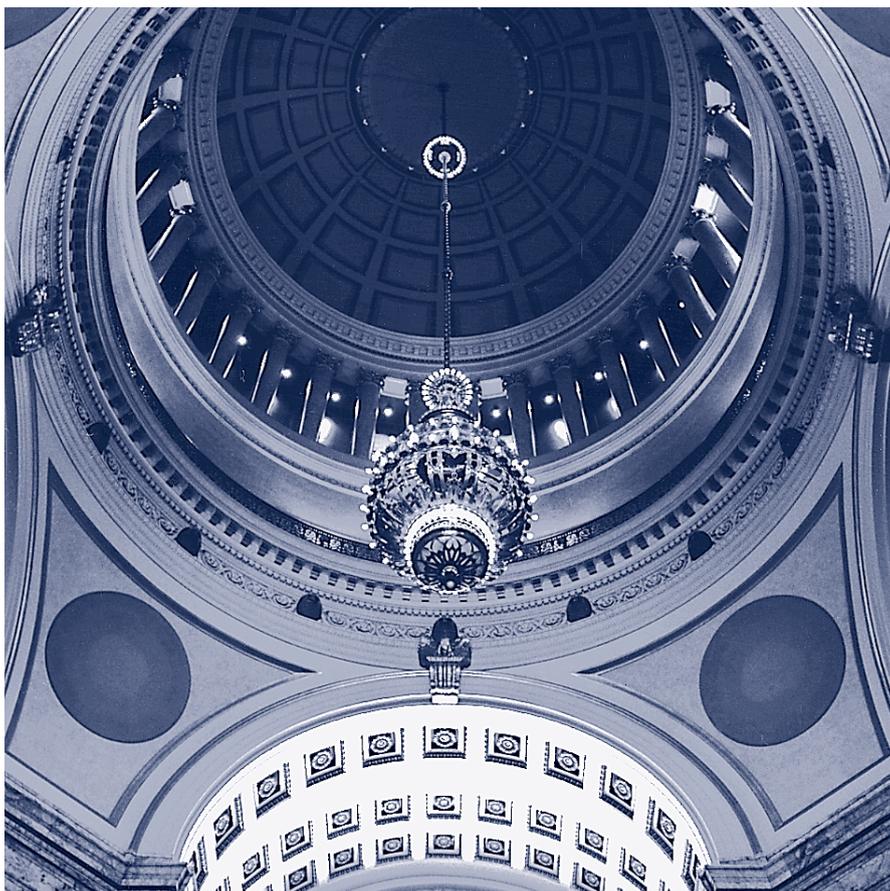
Reception Room (Third Floor)

Bresche Violet Marble from Italy lines the State Reception Room. The Tiffany chandeliers, heavy velvet draperies, and a colorful carpet create an elaborate decor in this ceremonial room. The original carpet, made by the Mohawk

Company of New York, was at the time of its installation, the world's largest machine-made single-loomed carpet. The carpet protects an unusual herringbone design Bahamian teakwood floor which is occasionally uncovered for events such as the Governor's Inaugural Ball. The massive carved table in the center of the room features inlaid woods on the tabletop and a base carved from Circassian walnut. This room is used for formal state ceremonies, receptions, and meetings.



The State Reception Room



View from interior of the dome

Rotunda

The ceiling of the interior dome rises 175 feet above the rotunda floor. Hanging from a 101-foot chain is an ornate 5-ton bronze chandelier containing over 200 light bulbs. The largest chandelier ever created by the artists of the Tiffany Studios in New York, it traveled west by train and was assembled and installed in the rotunda during the final stages of construction.



State seal in the floor of the rotunda

The four statuesque firepots located in the corners of the rotunda were also created by Tiffany. They replicate ancient Roman signal lights used to call the first Senate into session more than 2,000 years ago. Flags of Washington's



One of four Roman-style firepots

39 counties are displayed behind the firepots. Embedded in the center of the floor is a replica of the Seal of the State of Washington. The seal is used extensively as a decoration throughout the building on railings, door knobs, furniture, and curtains.

Legislative Galleries (Fourth Floor)

Visitors are welcome to enter the viewing galleries for both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Our lawmakers meet annually beginning every January. Legislative sessions last 105 days during odd-numbered years and 60 days during even-numbered years. Washington's legislators are citizen legislators, meaning their responsibilities at the capitol are part-time. Legislative proceedings are open and can be viewed by the public from the gallery level.

Senate Chamber

The Lieutenant Governor, elected by the public every four years, presides over the State Senate and is seated at the front of the chamber on the rostrum. The 49 senators serve staggered four-year terms. Business in the Senate is conducted in a somewhat more traditional manner than the House, without the aid of an electronic voting machine. The marble in the Senate Chamber is German Formosa and the small flowers in the carpet are English dogwood or dogrose. The original desks are made of mahogany.



Members of the Senate in session, as seen from the public gallery above

House Chamber

The 98 state representatives are elected for two-year terms. The membership selects a leader of the majority party to be the Speaker of the House who sits on the rostrum and facilitates legislative proceedings. High on the wall above the rostrum is a reader board listing the daily business, and an electronic tally of votes.

The marble lining this chamber is French Escalette and the original desks are constructed of walnut. Woven into the carpet are large representations of the Pacific Rhododendron, our state flower, and the forest trillium. The names of our 39 state counties are high on the walls surrounding the chamber.





Washington State Capitol Campus

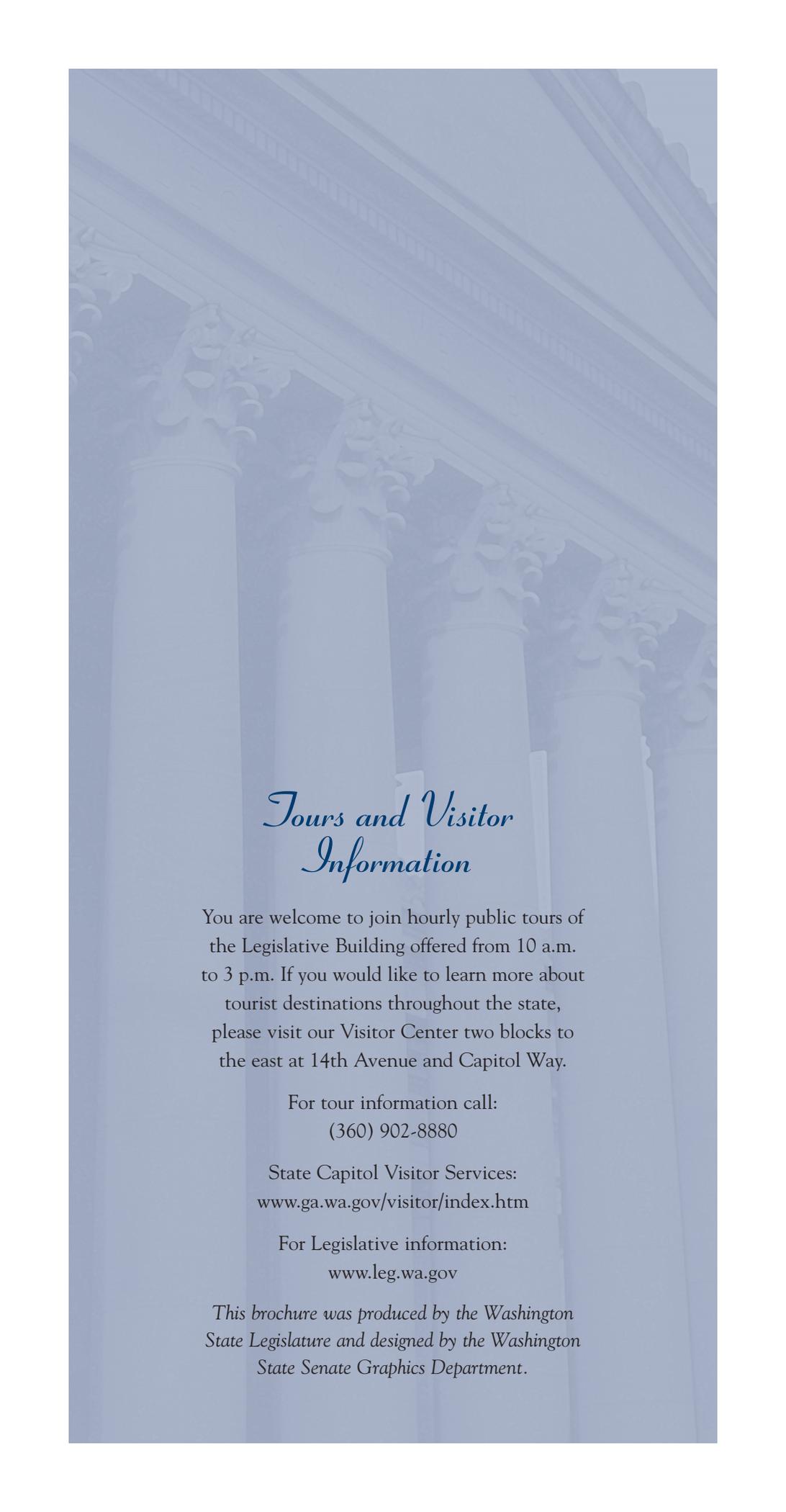
Situated on a knoll overlooking Capitol Lake and the southern tip of Puget Sound, the Legislative Building was the third classical building constructed on Washington's Capitol Campus. One of the most magnificent state capitol buildings in the nation, the brick and sandstone dome rises 287 feet to the top of the cupola and is one of the tallest masonry domes in the world.

Architects Wilder and White from New York designed the Washington State Capitol as a group of buildings. The centerpiece of the "Capitol Group" is the Legislative Building. Surrounding it are four similarly designed buildings including the Temple of Justice. A fifth building was planned to the west but never constructed as it would have required the removal of the Executive Mansion on that site. Drawing on the expertise of more than 500 master craftsmen and artisans from around the world, construction was completed in 1928 after five years of constant work. After completion of Washington's Legislative Building, no other state capitols in the U.S. were built in a similarly elegant and classical style.

The exterior sandstone was unearthed in quarries near Mt. Rainier at Wilkeson. The granite steps and massive foundation pieces came from north of Seattle at Index. You will notice elegant sculptural designs in the sandstone, bronze, and plaster throughout the building, all created by Maxfield Keck of New York. All the original lighting designs, inside and out, were created by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The Washington State Capitol Campus includes 50 beautifully landscaped acres noted for spectacular bulb and annual plantings, and old growth conifers. It was designed in 1928 by the Olmsted Brothers, planners of New York's Central Park.

The impressive grounds, bold architecture, and spectacular natural setting of the Washington State Capitol make it one of the most stunning of state capitols. It is indeed the pride of Washington's citizens.



Tours and Visitor Information

You are welcome to join hourly public tours of the Legislative Building offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to learn more about tourist destinations throughout the state, please visit our Visitor Center two blocks to the east at 14th Avenue and Capitol Way.

For tour information call:
(360) 902-8880

State Capitol Visitor Services:
www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/index.htm

For Legislative information:
www.leg.wa.gov

This brochure was produced by the Washington State Legislature and designed by the Washington State Senate Graphics Department.