

Welcome

Welcome to the Wyoming Capitol. The Wyoming Legislature's Chambers are historical and dynamic works of art. Every detail within the Chambers are designed to recognize and promote the solemnity and significance of the legislative process. The Chambers are a sacred place, which reinforce the significance of the work of the Wyoming Legislature as it deliberates impacts of changes to the laws of Wyoming upon her residents. The Senate and House of Representatives Chambers include many interesting features:

- The new desks that were recently commissioned by the Legislature.
- The stained glass in the ceilings of the Chambers.
- The art and murals in the House and Senate Chambers.

Again, welcome to the Wyoming State Legislature and enjoy the unique opportunity you have today to tour our State Capitol.



Looking from the House Balcony into the Wyoming House of Representatives Chamber

Senate Chamber

The Senate Chamber is located in the West wing of the Capitol. This portion of the building was completed in 1917. There are 30 senators elected to serve in the Wyoming Legislature. Senators are elected to four-year terms. To be eligible to run for the Senate, a person must be at least 25 years old, must have resided within the district they represent for at least one year prior to the election, and must be a United States citizen.

House Chamber

The House of Representatives Chamber is located in the East wing of the Capitol. This wing was also completed in 1917. The Wyoming Legislature has 60 representatives who serve for two-year terms. To serve in the House, a person must be at least 21 years old, must reside within the district for at least one year prior to the election, and must be a United States citizen.



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The Wyoming Legislative Chambers



Looking from the Senate Balcony into the Wyoming Senate Chamber

*Information about the desks,
stained glass, and artwork
located in the Chambers
of the Wyoming Senate
and House of Representatives*

The Desks

The desks in the Chambers represent not only the location for legislative floor deliberation, but also each legislator's individual workstation. Other than some members of legislative leadership, Wyoming legislators do not have office space in the Capitol or within the Capitol Complex. Legislators work at their desks in the Senate and House Chambers during legislative sessions.

The Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$300,000 during the 2001 General Session from the General Fund to replace the legislative desks in the House and Senate Chambers. In the legislation appropriating the funds for the construction of the



Legislator's Desk in the House of Representatives

new desks, the Legislature specified, "The furnishings shall be designed to accommodate the functional and technological needs of the Legislature, but shall also aesthetically complement the historic architecture of the Chambers."

The Wyoming Legislature's Select Committee on Legislative Facilities steered the project through all phases of the design and construction process. The desks were designed and built by Wyoming companies.

The Legislature hired The Design Studio from Cheyenne to design the desks, develop layout options for the Chambers, prepare millwork and granite bids, and coordinate the completion and installation of the desks in the Chambers.

The desks were built by Eggli Bros. Millwork, Inc. in Lander, Wyoming. The desks are crafted from quarter-sawn white oak to match each Chamber's

wainscoting. Over 6,000 board feet of wood were needed to construct the desks. Each desk has over 120 separate pieces and required over 360 machining operations. The desks were constructed in 12 weeks with 5,000 man-hours.

The granite desktops were quarried by Raven Quarries of Wheatland at their quarry in northeast Albany County. Strid Marble and Granite Company in Cheyenne cut the slabs and Buffalo Stone, Inc. in Sheridan assembled and finished the tops.



Legislator's Desk in the Senate Chamber

The desks in the Senate Chamber feature a black desktop called Raven Black. The desks in the House Chamber feature mottled brown, green, black and salmon tops called Raven Mirage. After being blasted out of the quarry in the late fall of 2001, the granite was cut into slabs and then further cut to the dimensions of the desktops. Each of the desktops passed through an 11-step polishing and finishing process. The desktops required more than 1,800 man-hours to complete.

The desks were not only designed to complement the historic décor of the Chambers, but also to allow legislators to work efficiently with all of the conveniences of the 21st Century. The desks include task lighting, electrical outlets, a phone outlet, and a data line. In addition, the desks in the Senate include a microphone system.

Delivery of the desks to the Capitol began in January 2002. The desks were installed in time for the opening of the 2002 Budget Session of the 56th Wyoming Legislature in February 2002.

The Artwork

The Chambers each feature murals painted by Allen True in 1917. According to historical documents from Wyoming State Archives, the murals represent various themes in Wyoming's history. Senate pieces include "Indian Chief Cheyenne," "Frontier Cavalry Officers," "Pony Express Rider" and "Railroad Builders-Surveyors." In the House Chambers, True's works include, "Cattlemen," "Trappers," "Homesteaders" and "Stagecoach."

The Chambers also feature original oil paintings by E.W. "Bill" Gollings of Sheridan. Two Gollings oils hang in each Chamber. In the Senate Chamber, works include, "Smoke Signal" and "Wagon Box Fight." The House Chamber includes "Overland Stage" and "Emigrants on the Platte."

The Stained Glass

The stained glass ceilings in each Chamber highlight the Wyoming State Seal. Total restoration of the stained glass ceilings above the House and Senate chambers was completed in mid-2004 by First Glass Images of Cheyenne. The project took three years and each panel was taken apart, cleaned, and re-leaded. There were more than 20,000 individual pieces of glass in all.



Stained Glass Ceiling Above the Senate Chamber