



## Iowa State Capitol

The Iowa State Capitol was constructed between 1871 and 1886, representing one of the nation's finest examples of 19th century architecture. The Capitol's interior features many different types and colors of marble, works of art, fixtures, and carvings in both wood and stone. The Capitol's exterior is distinguished by five domes; the most striking is the central dome, towering 275 feet above the ground and gilded in 23-karat gold leaf.

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### ***CAPITOL FACTS:***

- The Iowa State Capitol houses the Governor's offices, Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, and the Law Library.
- A prairie boulder, 7 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet thick, became the Iowa State Capitol's cornerstone in 1871.
- There are 29 types of marble in the Iowa State Capitol.
- There are 13 types of wood used in the Iowa State Capitol.
- The Iowa State Capitol has a total of 1,471 interior steps.
- There were 87,462 pounds of nails used to build the Iowa State Capitol.
- The Iowa State Capitol weighs about 175 pounds per square foot and encompasses approximately 330,000 total square feet.
- The original ceiling in the House of Representatives was destroyed by a fire on January 4, 1904.



The Iowa State Capitol is truly an impressive Iowa landmark. Each year the Capitol has over 100,000 visitors, comprised not only of Iowans, but of people from all over the world. The Capitol's golden dome can be seen for miles, symbolizing an open, representative government for all the citizens of Iowa.

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### ***THE LEGISLATURE:***

- 50 Senators and 100 members of the House of Representatives comprise the Iowa General Assembly. Most are either Republican or Democrat.
- The Iowa General Assembly is a citizen legislature where legislators are also employed outside the General Assembly.
- Each Iowa General Assembly comprises two years.
- The legislative session of the Iowa General Assembly convenes each year on the second Monday in January, and has a general length of 110 days during odd-numbered years and 100 days during even-numbered years.
- Legislators are elected by the voters in their particular legislative districts.
- Senators are elected to four-year terms and Representatives are elected to two-year terms.
- Legislators create, study, discuss, debate, and vote on proposed legislation, and act as a liaison between citizens and state government.
- Each bill must pass both the Senate and the House in the same form before being sent to the Governor.
- The Legislative Information Office is the information contact source for the Iowa Legislative Branch of Government. (Call: 515-281-5129) ([www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us))
- Capitol Tour Guides give about 2,000 tours to approximately 35,000 people each year, and conduct interactive tours of the Capitol to over 1,000 Iowa school students through a fiber-optics network at 33 sites. (Call: 515-281-5591)