
Lesson Four: The Governor Leads



Governor's Home Office, third floor of mansion



Hosting President John F. Kennedy for breakfast

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the governor's role in California government
- Identify the governor's responsibilities
- List several desirable qualifications for a governor

Biographies

George Pardee, 21st Governor, 1903-1907

The son of a prominent physician and politician (who served as mayor of Oakland, State Senator and State Assemblyman), George Pardee was destined to follow in his father's footsteps. Born in San Francisco in 1857, he was raised in the family home in Oakland. He attended the University of California and Cooper Medical College before completing his studies in Germany. As a physician he joined his father's practice, specializing in diseases of the eye and ear. He served on the Board of Health, the Oakland City Council, and as the mayor of Oakland. Governor Gage appointed him to the University of California's Board of Regents. George Pardee took office as governor in January 1903.

Artist: Clara McChesney (1907)



Earl Warren, 30th Governor, 1943-1953

A native of Los Angeles, Earl Warren was born in 1891. He studied law, and after service in the U.S. Army, he became city attorney for the city of Oakland. He then served as deputy district attorney and ultimately district attorney for the County of Alameda. In that position he became known for his brilliant and tenacious investigative skills. This reputation led to his election as state attorney general. Warren was inaugurated as governor in 1943 and served for ten years. His third term was cut short when he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Artist: Howard E. Smith (1953)



Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, 32nd Governor, 1959-1967

Born in San Francisco in 1905, Edmund Brown was nicknamed “Pat” when, as a boy selling Liberty Bonds during World War I, he ended his speeches by shouting Patrick Henry’s line, “Give me liberty or give me death!” Later, Brown studied law, graduating first in his class. He practiced law in San Francisco. Always active in political causes, Brown was elected district attorney of San Francisco County. In 1950 he was elected attorney general of California; he served two terms. In January of 1959 he took office as governor.

Artist: C.J. Fox (date unknown)



Ronald Reagan, 33rd Governor, 1967-1975

The son of a shoe salesman, Ronald Reagan was born in Illinois in 1911. Reagan graduated from Eureka College with an A.B. degree. He worked as a construction worker, lifeguard, radio announcer and actor. He was elected to the board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild and served as president of the Motion Picture Industry Council for two terms. During his tenure on the council he became active in California politics. Although he had not held public office before, he was elected Governor of California and was inaugurated in January of 1967. He later became president of the United States.

Artist: Robert Rishell (1974)



