

The
WEST WING





Letter from the President

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the West Wing of the White House. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt relocated his office from the second floor of the residence to this newly constructed building. The West Wing has expanded and undergone several renovations since then, but it has remained the official workplace of the President.

President Thomas Jefferson first opened the White House for public tours because he understood then, as we do now, that this house belongs to the American people. I am proud to continue his tradition. In our country, the halls of government are not reserved for a privileged few, and the President's workplace should be no exception. Your visit today helps to fulfill my goal of creating the most open and accessible administration in American history.

Once again, welcome to the West Wing, and please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable tour.

Sincerely,

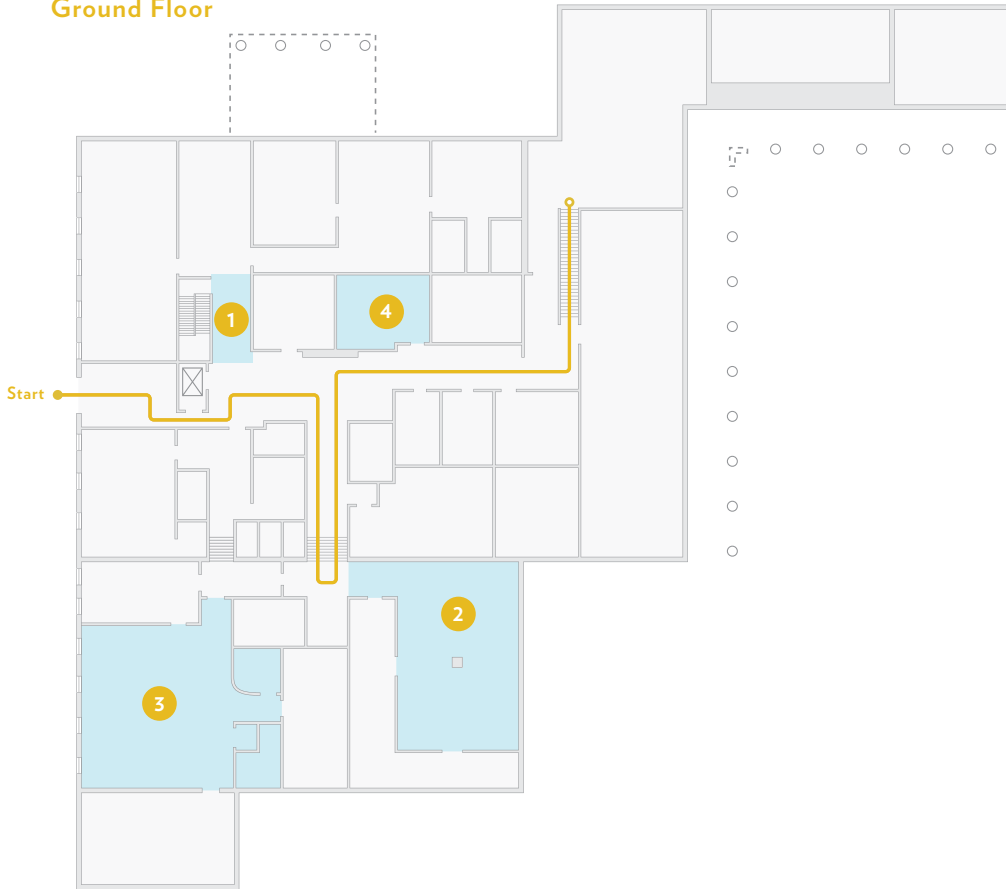
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump", written in a cursive style.



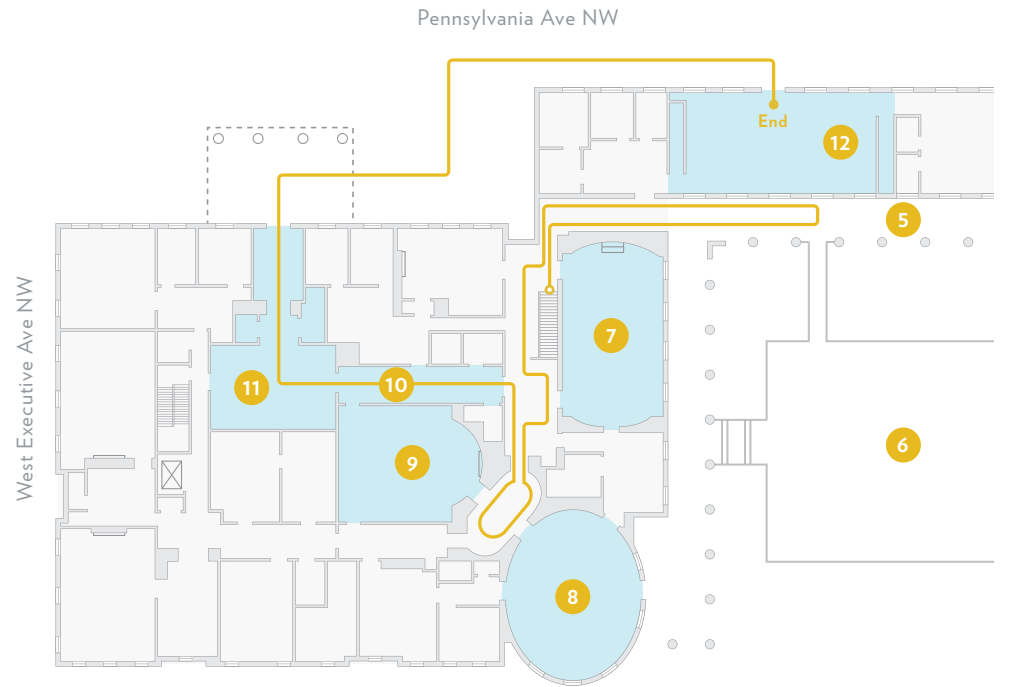
West Wing • Floor Plan



Ground Floor



First Floor

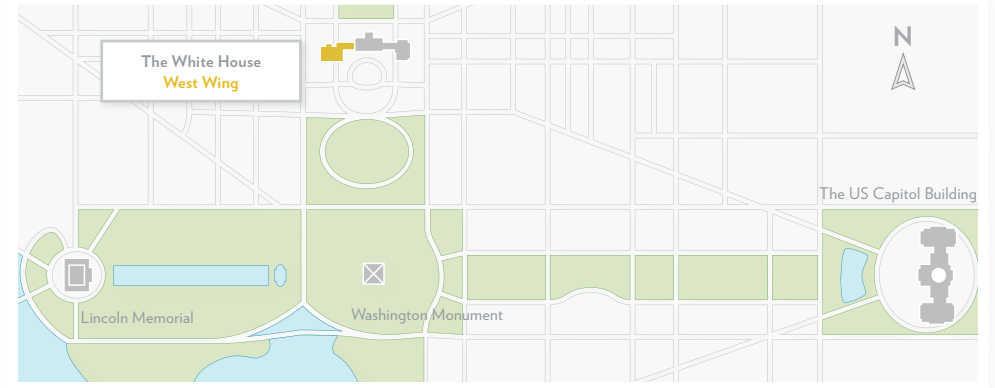


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Vice President's Hallway

Located just above this hallway is one of three offices occupied by the Vice President and his staff. While the VP completes day to day work from the West Wing, the Vice President also has ceremonial office space in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and on Capitol Hill. Along this corridor are photos depicting the Vice President's time in office.

Navy Mess

(pictured below)

Navy Stewards have provided food service to the Commander in Chief since 1880. Under President Harry Truman, the modern White House Navy Mess was established. The Navy's culinary specialists prepare and serve fine foods in the West Wing.

Seated reservations are available to senior officials including commissioned officers, Cabinet members and their guests. West and East Wing staffers can enjoy food made in the Navy Mess from a take-out window located adjacent to the dining hall.



Situation Room

(pictured above)

Months after being sworn into office, President John F. Kennedy was confronted with the Bay of Pigs Invasion and insisted that intelligence information be fed directly into the White House. The Situation Room was established to meet President Kennedy's request.

The current "Sit Room" is a 5,000-square-foot complex of rooms that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to monitor national and world intelligence information. Televisions for secure video conferences and technology can link the President to generals and World leaders around the globe.

Photo Office

The White House Photo Office staff takes thousands of pictures every day to document the President's term in office. Some of these photos are displayed on the walls of the West Wing. Every few weeks these images are refreshed and cycled into offices across the complex.

Visit www.whitehouse.gov to see more official White House photos.



West Colonnade

Also known as the “45 second commute,” the West Colonnade was built for Thomas Jefferson as a connection to the White House stables. The open columned pavilion is now used by the President and his staff to travel between the West Wing and the Executive Residence.



Rose Garden & South Lawn

The Rose Garden was created by First Lady Ellen Axson Wilson in 1913. It was redesigned by First Lady Jaqueline Kennedy to serve as a Presidential reception area.

The South Lawn, which stretches to the White House south gate, is the site of the President's Marine One arrivals and departures and includes the White House tennis court, putting green, basketball court and as of March 2009, a kitchen garden. The White House kitchen garden includes over 50 kinds of vegetables as well as berries, herbs and a beehive.





Official Cabinet Seating Arrangement

- 1 Dept of State • 2 Dept of the Treasury • 3 Dept of Defense • 4 Dept of Justice • 5 Dept of the Interior • 6 Dept of Agriculture • 7 Dept of Commerce • 8 Dept of Labor • 9 Dept of Health and Human Services • 10 Dept of Housing and Urban Development • 11 Dept of Transportation • 12 Dept of Energy • 13 Dept of Education • 14 Dept of Veterans Affairs • 15 Dept of Homeland Security • 16 Office of Management & Budget • 17 Environmental Protection Agency • 18 UN Ambassador • 19 US Trade Representative Agency • 20 Council of Economic Advisers • 21 White House Chief of Staff • 22 National Security Adviser

Cabinet Room

In the Cabinet Room the President meets with the Cabinet Secretaries, members of Congress, the National Security Council and foreign Heads of State on topics ranging from energy efficiency to national security.

When the President meets around the large mahogany table with the Cabinet Secretaries, each is assigned a chair based on the date their department was established with the oldest Cabinet departments seated closest to the center. The President's chair sits at the center of the table on the east side with his back to the Rose Garden doors and opposite the Vice President.

As a reflection of their inspiration and governing style, Presidents select the portraits that hang in the Cabinet Room. President Obama selected a portrait of President Harry S. Truman by Frank O. Salisbury to be displayed on the south wall in May 2009.





Oval Office

As the official office of the President and his primary place of work, the Oval Office provides the President with easy access to his senior advisors and the Executive Residence.

Beyond its distinctive shape, the most famous feature of the Oval Office is the Resolute Desk. Commissioned from timbers of the H.M.S. Resolute – a British navy ship – by Queen Victoria and presented to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880, the desk has been used by every President since then except Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford.

Other notable furnishings in the Oval Office are the two paintings that flank the south windows. *The Avenue in the Rain* by Childe Hassam depicts Fifth Avenue in New York City adorned with flags and banners in support of the Allied war effort during World War I in 1917. *The Statue of Liberty* by Norman Rockwell was prepared for the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* to commemorate the Fourth of July in 1946.

Each President decorates the Oval Office to suit his tastes, but some features remain constant including the white marble mantel from the original 1909 President's Office, the Presidential seal in the ceiling, and the two flags behind the President's desk – the U.S. flag and the President's flag.



Roosevelt Room

(pictured below)

Once called the Fish Room by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Roosevelt Room occupies the original location of President Theodore Roosevelt’s office when the West Wing was built in 1902. President Nixon named the room in 1969 to honor Theodore Roosevelt for building the West Wing and Franklin Roosevelt for its expansion.

On the southeast wall hangs President Theodore Roosevelt’s Congressional Medal of Honor awarded posthumously on January 16, 2001 to honor his heroism in the Spanish-American War. To the left of the fireplace hangs President Theodore Roosevelt’s Nobel Peace Prize, awarded in 1906 for his mediation of the Russo-Japanese War peace settlement. It was the first Nobel Prize awarded to an American and the first awarded to a sitting president.



Upper Press Hallway

Walking down the hallway, you’ll notice Norman Rockwell’s four panel series *So You Want to See the President* (1943) flanking the doorway to the press secretary’s office. In 1943, Stephen Early, Press Secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, made arrangements for the artist to visit and capture the hustle and bustle of the West Wing.

The scenes depict appointments waiting to see the president, presidential staff, secret service officers, members of the press, and even the President’s dog, Fala. The series was reproduced in the November 13, 1943 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*.



West Wing Lobby

(pictured above)

The West Wing lobby is the reception room for visitors of the President, Vice President and White House staff. The current lobby was renovated by Richard Nixon in 1970 to provide a smaller, more intimate receiving space.

The large gilt clock was likely created from assembled parts (both old and new) to imitate an early 19th Century clock like those used in churches and other public buildings. The artist inscribed the name of “Simon Willard,” an important clock maker at the turn of the century.

The English-made mahogany bookcase (c.1770) is one of the oldest pieces of furniture in the White House collection.

Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851) by Eastman Johnson is a recreation of Emanuel Leutze’s monumental life-size painting of the same subject. The painting is most famous for its historical inaccuracies, namely the depiction of the American flag which was designed more than a year after the crossing took place.

The Outlier (1909) was one of the last important paintings of Frederic Remington’s career, which chronicled the vanishing American West at the turn of the century.





James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

The Press Briefing Room sits atop an empty swimming pool installed in 1933 for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s physical therapy while battling polio. During the Nixon Administration, more space was required to accommodate the growing Press Corps. President Nixon’s suggestion to “throw them in the pool!” was taken quite literally and in 1970 the Briefing Room was constructed on top of the emptied pool.

In 2000, the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room was named in honor of former press secretary, James Brady, who was shot and disabled during a 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Today, the current White House Press Corps is made up of about 200 members. With just 49 chairs (arranged 7 by 7), it’s up to the White House Correspondents Association to decide who gets these coveted seats. A plaque on each seat displays the name of the news organization to which it is assigned, except for one. Front and center is a chair reserved for Helen Thomas, a matriarch of the White House Press Corps that has covered every President since John F. Kennedy.

Thank you for visiting the West Wing!

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