



Please Join Us for a Media Preview  
of the Exhibit  
**Discover Your Governors**  
at the  
**N.C. Museum of History**  
5 East Edenton St., Raleigh  
**Friday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon**

*Remarks begin at 10 a.m.; a brief exhibit tour starts at 10:30 a.m.  
(If you can't stay the entire time, come when it suits you.)*

This interactive exhibit introduces children (and other museum visitors) to the office of North Carolina's top elected official, past and present. Kid-friendly graphics, hands-on activities, artifacts and photographs will help young people learn about the role of governor and explore more than 200 years of gubernatorial history. The exhibit opens Saturday, Oct. 22, and information also will be available in Spanish.

**Photo op:** Several students from Raleigh's A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary will be at the media preview. For this exhibit aimed at children, the curator collaborated with students from A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary for the exhibit's video and quiz interactives. For the video, children asked questions about what it is like to be governor, and the video features answers from several former North Carolina governors. Some of the **students who participated in the interactives** will be at the media preview. The children also will try out all the hands-on activities in *Discover Your Governors*.

We hope to see you for the media preview on Oct. 21!

**Please RSVP by Monday, Oct. 17,** to Susan Lamb at 919-807-7943  
or [susan.lamb@ncdcr.gov](mailto:susan.lamb@ncdcr.gov). Please contact Susan if you want a parking pass.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Media Contacts**

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## **DISCOVER YOUR GOVERNORS**

**Raleigh, N.C.** — The new exhibit *Discover Your Governors* will introduce children (and other museum visitors) to the office of North Carolina's top elected official, past and present. The exhibit will open **Saturday, Oct. 22,** at the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh. Kid-friendly graphics, hands-on interactives, artifacts and photographs will help young people learn about the role of governor and explore more than 200 years of gubernatorial history. *Discover Your Governors* will run through Aug. 6, 2017, and admission is free. Exhibit information also will be available in Spanish.

“This is the first time the Museum of History has aimed a gubernatorial exhibit toward elementary students, and we’re excited about engaging children and helping them learn about civics and history,” says RaeLana Poteat, Curator of Political and Social History. “We also enjoyed collaborating with students from Raleigh’s A. B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary for one of the exhibit’s video interactives. The children asked great questions about what it is like to be governor, and the video features answers from several former North Carolina governors. There’s nothing like hearing answers straight from the source!”

Other hands-on activities will give students a chance to vote and take computer quizzes to test their newfound knowledge.

*Discover Your Governors* showcases intriguing artifacts ranging from personal items and inaugural gowns to political campaign materials. For example, see the inkwell that Gov. Zebulon Vance used in the State Capitol during the Civil War or the swearing-in Bible that Gov. James G. Martin used in 1989. Among several First Ladies’ inaugural gowns is the yellow dress that “First Kid” Merle Umstead, daughter of William B. Umstead, wore at age 10 to her father’s Inaugural Ball in 1953. Also on view, small pieces of Apollo 11 moon rocks are encased on a plaque presented to Gov. Bob Scott by Pres. Richard Nixon in 1969 to commemorate NASA’s first manned mission on the moon.

Sixty-eight individuals have served as governor since North Carolina became a state in 1776. The exhibit delves into various topics on the state’s leader, from Lords Proprietors during colonial days to the accomplishments of contemporary governors.

*Discover Your Governors* is presented in six sections that begin with a question. This small sampling provides a little detail and a fun fact from each section.

- What does the governor do? Among official duties, the governor signs into law — or chooses to veto — bills passed by the N.C. General Assembly. The state’s leader also performs ceremonial duties such as cutting a ribbon to open an event or a new building.
- How does someone become governor? The way we vote to elect the state’s leader has changed since 1776. Did you know that between 1776 and 1836, only members of our General Assembly voted to elect the governor?
- Where does the governor live and work? He or she lives in the Executive Mansion and works in an office in the State Capitol. Since 1891 all of North Carolina’s governors and their families have lived in the Executive Mansion.
- What is a First Family? The exhibit explores the roles of First Ladies or First Gentlemen. Most “First Kids” lead fairly normal lives in the Executive Mansion; some have made playrooms in the attic or brought along family pets.
- Who are some past North Carolina governors? Find out the accomplishments of former governors, such as Gov. Luther Hodges, who helped establish Research Triangle Park in the 1960s. Gov. Beverly Eaves Perdue became the state’s first female governor in 2009.
- Who is our governor now? Gov. Pat McCrory was sworn into office on Jan. 12, 2013. The exhibit features his Emergency Management outfit and First Lady Ann McCrory’s inaugural gown. There’s even a wood carving of the McCrorys’ beloved Moe, North Carolina’s “First Dog.”

Come *Discover Your Governors* and learn more about North Carolina’s leader and the state’s gubernatorial history.

### ***Discover Your Governors* Discovery Tour**

To complement the exhibit, the Museum of History offers the *Discover Your Governors* Discovery Tour. Details on additional November programs are available at [NCMOH-programs.com](http://NCMOH-programs.com).

#### ***Discover Your Governors* Discovery Tour**

Grades 3-8, one hour, maximum 35 students, docent led.

Offered October 25–May on weekdays.

Fee: \$30 per class

Have North Carolina’s governors always had access to social media and computers to link them with citizens across the state? This tour will focus on our state’s governors from the 18th through the 21st centuries. Students will examine how governors were elected, and learn how changing

technologies have influenced communication with our state's leaders. The Discovery Tour meets N.C. Essential Standards. Registration and fee at <http://bit.ly/2cr47o1>.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call [919-807-7900](tel:919-807-7900) or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

Image credit: Please credit N.C. Museum of History

**IMAGES and DROPBOX LINK**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qnwmjlcuiyl1m18/AAAx6T\\_uapbIKP-6XpPa4lq8a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qnwmjlcuiyl1m18/AAAx6T_uapbIKP-6XpPa4lq8a?dl=0)

**FILE Bumper Sticker:** A bumper sticker from the 1972 campaign of Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. He was the first Republican to be elected governor in the 20th century.

**FILE Campaign Buttons:** Campaign buttons from the 1948 campaign of Gov. W. Kerr Scott and the 1984 campaign of Gov. James G. Martin.

**FILE Sanford:** For his 1961 Inaugural Ball, Gov. Terry Sanford wore this tuxedo and his wife, Margaret Sanford, selected this pink dress. The tuxedo, a recent donation to the N.C. Museum of History, is now reunited with the gown, which has been in the museum collection since Mrs. Sanford donated it in 1973.

**FILE Umstead:** At age 10, "First Kid" Merle Umstead, daughter of William B. Umstead, wore this yellow dress to her father's Inaugural Ball in 1953.

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**About the N.C. Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

**About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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