

### A State Seal like no other

The seal that adorns the entrance to my office also has some unique history. It is the only state seal in the United States to be designed by a woman. Emma Edwards Green was the daughter of John C. Edwards, a former Governor of Missouri. Green was visiting Idaho in the summer of 1890. At the same time, the state legislature authorized a prize of \$100 for the best designed seal for the new state.

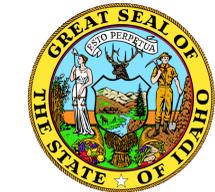


**Emma Edwards Green**

As the issue of women's suffrage was then being discussed, Emma Edwards Green determined she should incorporate the concept of liberty and equality into the design. "I made the figure of the man most prominent in the design, while that of the woman, signifying justice, as noted by the scales; liberty, as denoted by the liberty cap on the spear, and equality with man as denoted by her position at his side, also signifies freedom," she wrote. Emma Edwards Green also incorporated the state motto "**Esto Perpetua**" into the final design. I like to sign all my letters with the same motto which literally translated from Latin means "it is perpetuated" or "it is forever."



**This is the original art work submitted by Emma Edwards Green, ultimately selected in the state sanctioned contest to establish Idaho's State Seal.**



**This updated State Seal was authorized in 1957 by the Idaho Legislature. This image also adorns the State Flag. The official Great Seal of the State of Idaho can be seen in the office of the Secretary of State.**

### A little historical context

It was during the height of the Civil War that Abraham Lincoln established the Idaho Territory in March of 1863. Seven months later, the Territory of Idaho held its first election. A total of 16 Territorial Governors were selected by the President to govern Idaho from 1863 to 1889. Idaho achieved statehood in 1890. Since then, 30 more individuals have served as Governor. You can see the photographs of some of my predecessors in the hallway just outside this office.



Thomas Jefferson and Ronald Reagan are the two Presidents I most admire. Inside their portraits in my office are my favorite quotes from each of them.



### My personal items

I have ridden and competed in many rodeos in my life. I have roped and even tried my hand at bull riding a time or two. But my favorite competition sport which I continue to perform at the rodeo is "heading & heeling." It is a timed event requiring teamwork where two cowboys rope a running calf, one snaring the head and the second cowboy ropes the heels. I have received more than a few belt buckles at some of these events, at least one of which is on display in my office.



**Governor Otter presenting the Colors at the Meridian State Finals Rodeo in 2004, riding his horse "Headlight."**

### The Other Otter in the Office

While previous governors may have hung big game trophy animals on the walls in this office, I feel pretty confident in saying I am the only governor who can boast of a resident otter who shares with me this office space. The otter that stands opposite my desk was a gift presented to me during my days in Congress. It is a favorite of the thousands of school children who visit the office.



### Learn more about my administration

If you would like to learn more about me, my approach to governing or my administration's priorities, I invite you to visit these web pages.



**Facebook**

<http://on.fb.me/b0JJUa>

**Twitter**

<http://twitter.com/#!/ButchOtter>

**YouTube**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GovernorOtter>

**Newsletter**

[http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/update\\_form.html](http://gov.idaho.gov/mediacenter/update_form.html)

**Home page**

<http://gov.idaho.gov/>

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# Welcome to the Office of Governor



### Visitor Guide



## Welcome to the Office of Governor

*The First Lady and I would like to welcome you to the Office of Governor!*

*I am one of 46 Idaho citizens fortunate enough to have been chosen by the people, or in some cases the President, to represent Idaho as Governor. I was elected Governor in November 2006, assumed the responsibilities of this office in January 2007 and was re-elected in November 2010. Being Governor of Idaho has been the best job I ever had. It also has been the most humbling honor of my life.*

*In Idaho we pride ourselves on our accessibility and open-door policy. The ability of our citizens to interact with their government is a measurement of the vitality of this magnificent republic. As a lawmaker, a Lt. Governor, a U. S. Congressman and now as Governor, that philosophy has always guided me. So whether you are just passing through Idaho or are a life-long resident, I invite you to look around my office, investigate many of the historical stories and treasures waiting to be rediscovered around just about every corner of this beautifully refurbished state Capitol.*

*As Always, Idaho "Esto Perpetua"*



## About the Governor

The people of Idaho re-elected C.L. "Butch" Otter as their Governor on November 2, 2010. He was first elected Governor of Idaho on November 7, 2006. He previously served three terms in Congress representing Idaho's 1st District from 2001 through 2006, and prior to that, was the longest serving Lt. Governor in Idaho history. Governor Otter is a father of four and grandfather of six. He is married to the former Lori Easley of Kimberly. They live on their ranch near Star.



Governor Otter was born in Caldwell on May 3, 1942. He attended Boise Junior College (now Boise State University) and received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the College of Idaho in 1967. He served honorably in the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Armored Cavalry from 1968 to 1973 and later was awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Mindanao in the Philippines and the College of Idaho in Caldwell.

Governor Otter's 30-year career in business included membership on the Board of Directors of the J.R. Simplot Company. He also served as Director of the Food Products Division, President of Simplot Livestock, and President of Simplot International. He retired in 1993.

## About the First lady

Lori Jean Otter became Idaho's First Lady after the people of Idaho elected her husband, C.L. "Butch" Otter, as their Governor in November 2006.



Lori attended the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, where she earned an associate's degree in English Literature. She finished her undergraduate education at Boise State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education and Physical Education with minors in Health and English. Lori received her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Educational Leadership from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa Idaho, in 2004.

As a former teacher, physical education instructor, coach and school administrator, Lori has a passion for education. She has co-authored two children's books, "Ida Visits the Capitol" and "Ida Tours the 44" (about Idaho's 44 counties) both of which are usually available in the gift shop located in the Garden Level of the Capitol.



Learn more about Idaho's First Lady: <http://firstlady.idaho.gov/>

## "The Gentleman on the second floor"

My office is located on the second floor of the west side of the state Capitol. During debate in the house or senate, as a matter of parliamentary courtesy, lawmakers don't refer to me as Governor but rather "the gentleman on the second floor." There have been quite a few "gentlemen" who have worked in this office. And while governors have come and gone over the years, the basic layout of the Governor's office itself has remained very similar.



**Governor Otter signing a proclamation at a desk that has been in continuous use by Idaho Governors for almost a hundred years.**

Historical photographs show that while each governor's preference for wall

art has differed dramatically, many of the furnishings remain the same. The original furnishings for the office were supplied by Wollaeger Manufacturing Company of Madison, Wisconsin and were constructed of Spanish mahogany. Like other offices within the statehouse, my office had both flat and roll-top desks made with brass bases on the legs and chairs finished to match the desks. The Governor's suite includes both a ceremonial office and a private working office. Most proclamation signings, public bill signing ceremonies, and press conferences or media availabilities occur in the larger ceremonial office.

Beginning in 2009, the Capitol underwent an extensive \$120 million expansion and restoration including historical conservation and refurbishment of some 500 pieces of original furniture that remain in this building. Some items in the Governor's suite were reproduced to follow the architectural character and

historical integrity of the building and original furnishings. It is also interesting to note that my office is the only governor's office in the country that is heated by geothermal water. A pumping station in the basement of the Capitol Mall provides enough hot water to heat 750,000 square feet of Capitol office space.



**Governor Moses Alexander, the second elected Jewish Governor in America, signs HB 142 on March 1, 1915, establishing prohibition in Idaho. Alexander signed the bill despite receiving threats against his life.**



**Candidate for President, Dwight Eisenhower meets with Idaho Governor Len B. Jordan and nine other Governors from all over the western United States in Governor Jordan's office during a campaign stop on August 20, 1952.**