

Governors of Nebraska

Originally compiled by the Lincoln City Libraries Reference Department 10/85
Updated regularly from 1985-present – this edition dated 9/25/2024

2023-present **Pillen, Jim**
Born: Columbus, Nebraska, December 31, 1955
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 66

2015-2022 **Ricketts, John Peter “Pete”**
Born: Nebraska City, Nebraska, August 19, 1964
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 50

2005-2015 **Heineman, David Eugene “Dave”**
Born: Falls City, Nebraska, May 12, 1948
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of taking office: 57

1999-2005 **Johanns, Michael [Mike] Owen**
Born: Osage, Iowa, June 18, 1950
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 47

1991-1999 **Nelson, E. Benjamin “Ben”**
Born: McCook, Nebraska, May 17, 1941
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 49

1987-1991 **Orr, Kay Avonne [nee Stark]**
Born: Burlington, Iowa, January 2, 1939
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 47

1983-1987 **Kerrey, Joseph Robert “Bob”**
Born: Lincoln, Nebraska, August 27, 1943
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: [still living as of September 2024]
Age at time of Election: 39

- 1979-1983 **Thone, Charles**
Born: Hartington, Nebraska, January 4, 1924
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, March 7, 2018
Age at time of Election: 54 Age at time of Death: 94
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1971-1979 **Exon, John James "J.J."**
Born: Geddes, South Dakota, August 9, 1921
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, June 10, 2005
Age at time of Election: 49 Age at time of Death: 83
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1967-1971 **Tiemann, Norbert Theodore**
Born: Minden, Nebraska, July 18, 1924
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Dallas, Texas, June 19, 2012
Age at time of Election: 42 Age at time of Death: 87
Buried: First Lutheran Church Columbarium, Lincoln, NE
Note: First Governor in Nebraska history to serve a 4-year instead of 2-year term
- 1961-1967 **Morrison, Frank Brenner**
Born: Golden, Colorado, May 20, 1905
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: McCook, Nebraska, April 19, 2004
Age at time of Election: 55 Age at time of Death: 98
Buried: Cremated; ashes given to family or friend
- 1960-1961 **Burney, Dwight Willard**
Born: Hartington, Nebraska, January 7, 1892
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Mesa, Arizona, March 10, 1987
Age at time of Election: 68 Age at time of Death: 95
Buried: Hartington Cemetery, Hartington, Nebraska
- 1959-1960 **Brooks, Ralph Gilmour**
Born: Eustis, Nebraska, July 6, 1898
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, September 9, 1960
Age at time of Election: 60 Age at time of Death: 62
Buried: Lincoln Memorial Park, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1955-1959 **Anderson, Victor Emmanuel**
Born: Havelock, Nebraska, March 30, 1902
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, August 15, 1962
Age at time of Election: 52 Age at time of Death: 60
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska

- 1953-1955 **Crosby, Robert B.**
Born: North Platte, Nebraska, March 26, 1911
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, January 7, 2000
Age at time of Election: 41 Age at time of Death: 88
Buried: Lincoln Memorial Park, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1947-1953 **Peterson, Val [Frederick Valdemar Erastus]**
Born: Oakland, Nebraska, July 18, 1903
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Fremont, Nebraska, October 17, 1983
Age at time of Election: 43 Age at time of Death: 80
Buried: Oakdale Cemetery, Oakdale, Nebraska
- 1941-1947 **Griswold, Dwight Palmer**
Born: Harrison, Nebraska, November 27, 1893
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Bethesda, Maryland, April 12, 1954
Age at time of Election: 48 Age at time of Death: 60
Buried: Fairview Cemetery, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
- 1935-1941 **Cochran, Robert Leroy**
Born: Avoca, Nebraska, January 28, 1886
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, February 23, 1963
Age at time of Election: 48 Age at time of Death: 77
Buried: Lincoln Memorial Park, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1931-1935 **Bryan, Charles Wayland [2nd term]**
Born: Salem, Illinois, February 10, 1867
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, March 4, 1945
Age at time of Election: 55 Age at time of Death: 78
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
Note: Also served as Mayor of Lincoln, NE 1915-1917 and 1935-1937
- 1929-1931 **Weaver, Arthur J.**
Born: Falls City, Nebraska, November 18, 1873
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Falls City, Nebraska, October 17, 1945
Age at time of Election: 56 Age at time of Death: 71
Buried: Steele Cemetery, Falls City, Nebraska
- 1925-1929 **McMullen, Adam**
Born: Wellsville, New York, June 12, 1872
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Beatrice, Nebraska, March 2, 1959
Age at time of Election: 52 Age at time of Death: 86
Buried: Wymore Cemetery, Wymore, Nebraska

- 1923-1925 **Bryan, Charles Wayland**
Born: Salem, Illinois, February 10, 1867
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, March 4, 1945
Age at time of Election: 55 Age at time of Death: 78
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
Note: Also served as Mayor of Lincoln, NE 1915-1917 and 1935-1937
- 1919-1923 **McKelvie, Samuel Roy**
Born: Fairfield, Nebraska, April 15, 1881
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Mesa, Arizona, January 6, 1956
Age at time of Election: 37 Age at time of Death: 74
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1917-1919 **Neville, Keith**
Born: North Platte, Nebraska, February 25, 1884
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: North Platte, Nebraska, December 4, 1959
Age at time of Election: 33 Age at time of Death: 75
Buried: North Platte Cemetery, North Platte, Nebraska
- 1913-1917 **Morehead, John H.**
Born: Columbia, Iowa, December 3, 1861
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: St. Joseph, Missouri, May 31, 1942
Age at time of Election: 51 Age at time of Death: 80
Buried: Steele Cemetery, Falls City, Nebraska
- 1911-1913 **Aldrich, Chester Hardy**
Born: Ashtabula Co., Ohio, November 10, 1862
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Superior, Nebraska, March 10, 1924
Age at time of Election: 47 Age at time of Death: 61
Buried: Ulysses Cemetery, Ulysses, Nebraska
- 1909-1911 **Shallenberger, Ashton Cokayne**
Born: Toulon, Illinois, December 23, 1862
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Franklin, Nebraska, February 22, 1938
Age at time of Election: 46 Age at time of Death: 75
Buried: Alma Cemetery, Alma, Nebraska
- 1907-1909 **Sheldon, George Lawson**
Born: Nehawka, Nebraska, May 31, 1870
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Greenville, Mississippi, March 4, 1960
Age at time of Election: 36 Age at time of Death: 89
Buried: Greenville Cemetery, Greenville, Mississippi
Note: First native Nebraskan to serve as Governor of Nebraska

- 1903-1907 **Mickey, John Hopwood**
Born: Burlington, Iowa, September 30, 1845
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Osceola, Nebraska, June 2, 1910
Age at time of Election: 57 Age at time of Death: 64
Buried: Osceola Cemetery, Osceola, Nebraska
- 1901-1903 **Savage, Ezra Perin**
Born: Connorsville, Indiana, April 3, 1842
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Tacoma, Washington, January 8, 1920
Age at time of Election: 59 Age at time of Death: 77
Buried: Tacoma Cemetery, Tacoma, Washington
- 1901 **Dietrich, Charles H.**
Born: Aurora, Illinois, November 26, 1853
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Hastings, Nebraska, April 10, 1924
Age at time of Election: 47 Age at time of Death: 70
Buried: Parkview Cemetery, Hastings, Nebraska
Note: Resigned Governorship to become U.S. Senator
- 1899-1901 **Poynter, William Amos**
Born: Eureka, Illinois, May 29, 1848
Party Affiliation: Populist (with Democrat support)
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, April 5, 1909
Age at time of Election: 50 Age at time of Death: 60
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1895-1899 **Holcomb, Silas Alexander**
Born: Gibson Co., Indiana, August 25, 1858
Party Affiliation: Populist (with Democrat support)
Died: Bellingham, Washington, April 25, 1920
Age at time of Election: 36 Age at time of Death: 61
Buried: Broken Bow Cemetery, Broken Bow, Nebraska
- 1893-1895 **Crouse, Lorenzo**
Born: Sharon, Schoharie Co., New York, January 27, 1834
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Omaha, Nebraska, May 13, 1909
Age at time of Election: 58 Age at time of Death: 75
Buried: Ft. Calhoun Cemetery, Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska
- 1891-1893 **Boyd, James E.**
Born: County Tyrone, Ireland, September 9, 1834
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Omaha, Nebraska, April 30, 1906
Age at time of Election: 56 Age at time of Death: 71
Buried: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska

- 1887-1891 **Thayer, John Milton**
Born: Bellingham, Massachusetts, January 24, 1820
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, March 19, 1906
Age at time of Election: 66 Age at time of Death: 86
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1883-1887 **Dawes, James W.**
Born: McConnelsville, Ohio, January 8, 1844
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 8, 1918
Age at time of Election: 38 Age at time of Death: 74
Buried: Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1879-1883 **Nance, Albinus**
Born: Lafayette, Illinois, March 30, 1848
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Chicago, Illinois, December 7, 1911
Age at time of Election: 30 Age at time of Death: 63
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1875-1879 **Garber, Silas**
Born: Logan Co., Ohio, September 21, 1833
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Red Cloud, Nebraska, January 12, 1905
Age at time of Election: 41 Age at time of Death: 71
Buried: Red Cloud Cemetery, Red Cloud, Nebraska
- 1873-1875 **Furnas, Robert Wilkinson**
Born: Troy, Ohio, May 5, 1824
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Lincoln, Nebraska, June 1, 1905
Age at time of Election: 49 Age at time of Death: 71
Buried: Walnut Grove Cemetery, Brownville, Nebraska
- 1871-1873 **James, William Hartford**
Born: Marion, Ohio, October 16, 1831
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Colfax, Washington, February 1, 1920
Age at time of Election: 40 Age at time of Death: 88
Buried: Colfax Cemetery, Colfax, Washington
Note: Acting Governor following the impeachment of David Butler
- 1867-1871 **Butler, David**
Born: Linton, Indiana, December 15, 1829
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Pawnee City, Nebraska, May 25, 1891
Age at time of Election: 36 Age at time of Death: 61
Buried: Pawnee City Cemetery, Pawnee City, Nebraska
Note: Impeached in 1871

*Appointed territorial Governors

1861-1867 * **Saunders, Alvin**

Born: Flemingsburg, Kentucky, July 12, 1817
Party Affiliation: Republican
Died: Omaha, Nebraska, November 1, 1899
Age at time of Election: 43 Age at time of Death: 82
Buried: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska

1859-1861 * **Black, Samuel W.**

Born: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1816
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Hanover County, Virginia, June 27, 1862
Age at time of Election: 41 Age at time of Death: 45
Buried: Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Note: Died serving as a commander of a Confederate unit during a Civil War battle

1858-1859 * **Morton, Julius Sterling**

Born: Adams, New York, April 22, 1832
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Lake Forest, Illinois, April 27, 1902
Age at time of Election: 26 Age at time of Death: 70
Buried: Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, Nebraska

1858 * **Richardson, William Alexander**

Born: Lexington, Kentucky, January 16, 1811
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Quincy, Illinois, December 27, 1875
Age at time of Election: 46 Age at time of Death: 64
Buried: Woodland Cemetery, Quincy, Illinois

1857-1858 * **Cuming, Thomas**

Born: New York, December 25, 1827
Party Affiliation: [unknown]
Died: Omaha, Nebraska, March 23, 1858
Age at time of Election: 25 Age at time of Death: 30
Buried: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska
Note: Acting Governor, following the resignation of Mark W. Izard

1855-1857 * **Izard, Mark Whitaker**

Born: Lexington, Kentucky, December 25, 1799
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: [unknown], Arkansas, August 8, 1866
Age at time of Election: 55 Age at time of Death: 66
Buried: Mount Vernon Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

1854-1855 * **Cuming, Thomas B.**
Born: Genesee County, New York, December 25, 1827
Party Affiliation: [unknown]
Died: Omaha, Nebraska, March 23, 1858
Age at time of Election: 25 Age at time of Death: 29
Buried: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska
Note: Acting Governor, following the death in office of Francis Burt

1854 * **Burt, Francis**
Born: Edgefield District, South Carolina, January 13, 1807
Party Affiliation: Democrat
Died: Bellevue, Nebraska, October 18, 1854
Age at time of Election: 47 Age at time of Death: 47
Buried: St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery, Pendleton, South Carolina
Note: Served only two days in office before his untimely death