

1909 in the United States

Events from the year **1909 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- **President:** Theodore Roosevelt (R-New York) (until March 4), William Howard Taft (R-Ohio) (starting March 4)
- **Vice President:** Charles W. Fairbanks (R-Indiana) (until March 4), James S. Sherman (R-New York) (starting March 4)
- **Chief Justice:** Melville Fuller (Illinois)
- **Speaker of the House of Representatives:** Joseph Gurney Cannon (R-Illinois)

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- Congress: 60th (until March 4), 61st (starting March 4)



William Howard Taft,
President from March
4

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: B. B. Comer (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas:
 - until January 11: Xenophon Overton Pindall (Democratic)
 - January 11-January 14: Jesse M. Martin (Democratic)
 - starting January 14: George Washington Donaghey (Democratic)
- Governor of California: James Gillett (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Henry Augustus Buchtel (Republican) (until January 12), John F. Shafroth (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Connecticut:
 - until January 6: Rollin S. Woodruff (Republican)
 - January 6-April 21: George L. Lilley (Republican)
 - starting April 21: Frank B. Weeks (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Preston Lea (Republican) (until January 19), Simeon S. Pennewill (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Florida: Napoleon B. Broward (Democratic) (until January 5), Albert W. Gilchrist (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Georgia: Hoke Smith (Democratic) (until June 26), Joseph M. Brown (Democratic) (starting June 26)
- Governor of Idaho: Frank R. Gooding (Republican) (until January 4), James H. Brady (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Illinois: Charles S. Deneen (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: J. Frank Hanly (Republican) (until January 11), Thomas R. Marshall (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Iowa: Warren Garst (Republican) (until January 14), Beryl F. Carroll (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Kansas: Edward W. Hoch (Republican) (until January 11), Walter R. Stubbs (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Kentucky: Augustus E. Willson (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Jared Young Sanders, Sr. (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: William T. Cobb (Republican) (until January 6), Bert M. Fernald (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Maryland: Austin Lane Crothers (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Curtis Guild, Jr. (Republican) (until January 7), Eben Sumner Draper (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Michigan: Fred M. Warner (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: John A. Johnson (Democratic) (until September 21), Adolph O. Eberhart (Republican) (starting September 21)
- Governor of Mississippi: Edmond Noel (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Joseph W. Folk (Democratic) (until January 11), Herbert S. Hadley (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Montana: Edwin L. Norris (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: George L. Sheldon (Republican) (until January 7), Ashton C. Shallenberger (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Nevada: Denver S. Dickerson (Silver)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles M. Floyd (Republican) (until January 7), Henry B. Quinby (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of New Jersey: John Franklin Fort (Republican)

- Governor of New York: Charles Evans Hughes (Republican)
- Governor of North Carolina: Robert Broadnax Glenn (Democratic) (until January 12), William Walton Kitchin (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of North Dakota: John Burke (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Andrew L. Harris (Republican) (until January 11), Judson Harmon (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Charles N. Haskell (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: George Chamberlain (Democratic) (until March 1), Frank W. Benson (Republican) (starting March 1)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Edwin Sydney Stuart (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: James H. Higgins (Democratic) (until January 5), Aram J. Pothier (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of South Carolina: Martin Frederick Ansel (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Coe I. Crawford (Republican) (until January 5), Robert S. Vessey (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Tennessee: Malcolm R. Patterson (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Thomas Mitchell Campbell (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: John Christopher Cutler (Republican) (until January 4), William Spry (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Vermont: George H. Prouty (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Claude A. Swanson (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington:
 - until January 27: Albert E. Mead (Republican)
 - January 27-March 28: Samuel G. Cosgrove (Republican)
 - starting March 28: Marion E. Hay (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: William M. O. Dawson (Republican) (until March 4), William E. Glasscock (Republican) (starting March 4)
- Governor of Wisconsin: James O. Davidson (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Bryant B. Brooks (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Henry B. Gray (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Warren R. Porter (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Erastus Harper (Republican) (until January 12), Stephen R. Fitzgarrald (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut:
 - until January 6: Everett J. Lake (Republican)
 - January 6-April 21: Frank B. Weeks (Republican)
 - starting April 21: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Isaac T. Parker (Republican) (until January 19), John M. Mendenhall (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Ezra A. Burrell (Republican) (until January 4), Lewis H. Sweetser (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Lawrence Sherman (Republican) (until January 18), John G. Oglesby (Republican) (starting January 18)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Hugh T. Miller (Republican) (until January 11), Frank J. Hall (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: vacant (until month and day unknown), George W. Clarke (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: William J. Fitzgerald (Republican)

- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: William Hopkinson Cox (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Paul M. Lambremont (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Eben Sumner Draper (Republican) (until January 7), Louis A. Frothingham (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Patrick H. Kelley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota:
 - until September 21: Adolph Olson Eberhart (Republican)
 - September 21-September 25: vacant
 - starting September 25: Edward Everett Smith (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Luther Manship (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: John C. McKinley (Republican) (until January 11), Jacob Friedrich Gmelich (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana:
 - until month and day unknown: Edwin L. Norris (Democratic)
 - month and day unknown: Benjamin F. White (Republican)
 - starting month and day unknown: William R. Allen (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Melville R. Hopewell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Denver S. Dickerson (Silver) (until May 22), vacant (starting May 22)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Horace White (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Francis D. Winston (Democratic) (until January 12), William C. Newland (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Robert S. Lewis (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: vacant (until January 11), Francis W. Treadway (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: George W. Bellamy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Robert S. Murphy (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Ralph Watrous (Republican) (until January 5), Arthur W. Dennis (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Thomas Gordon McLeod (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Howard C. Shober (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: E. G. Tollett (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), William Kinney (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Asbury Bascom Davidson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: John A. Mead (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: James Taylor Ellyson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington:
 - until January 7: Charles E. Coon (Republican)
 - January 7-January 27: vacant
 - January 27-March 28: Marion E. Hay (Republican)
 - starting March 28: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: William D. Connor (Republican) (until January 4), John Strange (Republican) (starting January 4)

Events

January–March

- January 1–31 – Torrential rain in California sees Helena Mine record 71.54 inches (1,817.1 mm) of precipitation for the month, the highest official monthly total in the contiguous United States.^[1]
- January 1 – Drilling begins on the Lakeview Gusher.
- January 28 – U.S. troops leave Cuba after being there since the Spanish–American War.
- February 2 – Centennial anniversary of the foundation of Miami University (Ohio), which is celebrated.
- February 12 – The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded, commemorating the hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.
- February 22 – The Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads, Virginia having circumnavigated the globe.
- February 24 – The Hudson Motor Car Company is founded.
- March 4 – William Howard Taft is sworn in as the 27th President of the United States.
- March 23 – Theodore Roosevelt leaves New York for the Smithsonian-Roosevelt African Expedition, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and National Geographic Society.^[2]



January 1:
Lakeview
Gusher



February 24: Hudson
founded

April–June

- April 30 – Palm Beach County was founded, separating from Dade County.
- June 1 – The Alaska–Yukon–Pacific Exposition opens in Seattle.
- June 9–August 7 – Alice Huyler Ramsey, a 22-year-old housewife and mother from Hackensack, New Jersey, becomes the first woman to drive across the United States. In 59 days, she drives a Maxwell automobile 3,800 miles from Manhattan, New York to San Francisco, California with three non-driving female companions.
- June 18 – The strangled body of missionary Elsie Sigel is discovered in a trunk in New York City's Chinatown.
- June 22 – Construction begins on the Cape Cod Canal, which will separate Cape Cod from mainland Massachusetts.

July–September

- August 2 – The United States Army Signal Corp Division purchases the world's first military airplane. They buy the Wright Military Flyer from the Wright Brothers.
- August 8 – The Rosicrucian Fellowship is launched at Seattle, Washington.
- August 12 – The first event is held at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- September – Sigmund Freud, having arrived on August 29 in New York, delivers his only lectures in the United States, on psychoanalysis, at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, giving public recognition to the subject in the anglophone world.
- September 27 – The 5.1 M_{fa} Wabash River earthquake shook western Indiana with a maximum Mercalli intensity of VII (*Very strong*), causing light damage.

October–December

- October 11 – The 1909 Florida Keys hurricane makes landfall in the U.S.
- November – Triangle Shirtwaist Factory strike in New York City.
- November 2 – The Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity is founded at Boston University.
- November 6 – The Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument is dedicated in Baltimore.
- November 8 – Fire at Robert Morrison fibroid comb factory in New York City kills 9.
- November 11 – The U.S. Navy founds a navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- November 13 – Ballinger–Pinchot scandal begins: Collier's Magazine accuses U.S. Secretary of the Interior Richard Ballinger of questionable dealings in Alaskan coal fields.
- November 18 – Two United States Navy ships are sent to Nicaragua after 500 revolutionaries (including 2 Americans) are executed by order of dictator José Santos Zelaya.
- December 31 – The Manhattan Bridge opens.



Indianapolis Motor Speedway first season poster

Undated

- The American Issue Publishing House of the Anti-Saloon League is epic games.

Ongoing

- Progressive Era (1890s–1920s)
- Lochner era (c. 1897–c. 1937)
- Great White Fleet voyage (1907–1909)

Births

- January 1 – Dana Andrews, film actor (died 1992)
- January 2 – Barry Goldwater, U.S. Senator from Arizona from 1953 to 1965 and from 1969 to 1987 (died 1998)
- January 2 (or 4) – J. R. Simplot, businessman, founded the Simplot Company (died 2008)<re>Hiram M. Drache (2001). *Creating Abundance: Visionary Entrepreneurs of Agriculture* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=W57vAAAAMAAJ>). Interstate Publishers. ISBN 978-0-8134-3208-3.</ref>
- January 5 – Stephen Cole Kleene, mathematician (died 1994)
- February 11
 - Max Baer, boxer (died 1959)

- Joseph L. Mankiewicz, filmmaker (died 1993)
- January 30 – Saul Alinsky, community organizer (died 1972)
- February 9 – Dean Rusk, politician (died 1994)
- February 18 – Warren Elliot Henry, African American physicist (died 2001)
- February 24 – August Derleth, writer and anthologist (died 1971)
- March 4 – Harry Helmsley, real estate entrepreneur (died 1997)
- March 24 – Clyde Barrow, outlaw (died 1934)
- April 13 – Eudora Welty, fiction writer (died 2001)
- May 7 – Edwin H. Land, camera inventor (died 1991)
- May 15 – J. Caleb Boggs, U.S. Senator from Delaware from 1961 to 1973 (died 1993)
- May 27 – Dolores Hope, born Dolores L. DeFina, singer and philanthropist (died 2011)
- May 30 – Benny Goodman, jazz clarinetist and bandleader (died 1986)
- June 3 – Ira D. Wallach, businessman and philanthropist (died 2007)
- June 12 – Archie Bleyer, song arranger and bandleader (died 1989)
- June 14 – Burl Ives, folk singer (died 1995 in the United States)
- July 29 – Chester Himes, fiction writer (died 1984)
- August 1 – Sibyl M. Rock, mathematician (died 1981)
- August 10 – Leo Fender, guitar inventor and manufacturer (died 1991)
- September 28 – Al Capp, cartoonist (died 1979)
- October 1 – Everett Sloane, character actor (died 1965)
- October 13 – Herblock, editorial cartoonist (died 2001)
- November 18 – Johnny Mercer, songwriter (died 1976)
- November 20 – Alan Bible, U.S. Senator from Nevada from 1954 to 1974 (died 1988)
- November 27 – James Agee, writer (died 1955)
- December 9 – Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., film actor (died 2000)
- December 14 – Edward Lawrie Tatum, geneticist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 1975)

Deaths

- January 10
 - John Conness, Ireland-born U.S. Senator from California from 1863 to 1869 (born 1821)
 - Charles Vernon Culver, politician (born 1830)
- April 9 – Francis Marion Crawford, novelist (born 1854)
- April 21 – David Turpie, U.S. Senator from Indiana in 1863 and from 1887 to 1899 (born 1828)
- April 28 – Frederick Holbrook, 27th Governor of Vermont from 1861 to 1863 (born 1813)
- May 17 – Helge Alexander Haugan, Norwegian-born banking executive (born 1847)
- June 24 – Sarah Orne Jewett, writer (born 1849)
- June 29 – George B. Cosby, Confederate general in the American Civil War (born 1830)

- August 21 – George Cabot Lodge, poet (born 1873)
- September 4 – Clyde Fitch, dramatist (born 1865)
- October 15 – William Lindsay, U.S. Senator from Kentucky from 1893 to 1901 (born 1835)
- December 10 – Red Cloud, Oglala Lakota Chief (born 1822)
- December 20 – William Harris, U.S. Senator from Kansas from 1897 to 1903 (born 1841)
- December 26 – Frederic Remington, cowboy artist and sculptor (born 1864)
- Date unknown – Gideon T. Stewart, educator and politician (born 1824)

See also

- List of American films of 1909
- Timeline of United States history (1900–1929)

References

1. "Weather Extremes for the Western States" (http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NWS/NWS_WR/TM_NWS_WR_28rev2nd.pdf) (PDF). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
2. "Theodore Roosevelt's Africa Expedition" (<https://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/rooseveltAfr.html>). The Library of Congress. Retrieved 2012-02-29.

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