



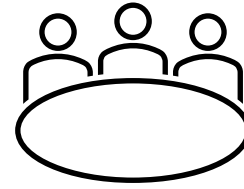
Capitol Security: Policies and Practices

October 27, 2025

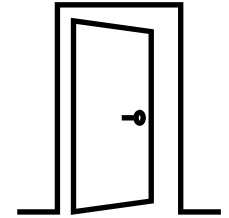




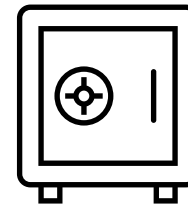
Today's Topics



**Committee
Decorum**



Screening Policies



Firearm Storage



Capitol Complexes



Committee Decorum

Committee Decorum

Colorado

Colorado House

Rule 25. Protection of committee deliberations - disruptions

(j) (H) In accordance with section 2-2-404, Colorado Revised Statutes, when conducting a legislative hearing or meeting, the chairman of a committee of reference may request that a sergeant-at-arms remove any person who is violating the provisions of section 18-9-110, Colorado Revised Statutes, or who otherwise impedes, disrupts, or hinders the proceeding or endangers any member, officer, or employee of the General Assembly or any member of the public.

[Source: Colorado House and Senate Rules](#)

Colorado Senate

22A. Protection of Deliberations

- (a) This rule is adopted pursuant to the constitutional, statutory, and inherent powers of the Senate and is intended to protect the deliberations of the Senate, Senate committees, Senate party caucuses, and other official meetings from undue disruption and interruption.
- (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) (2) of this rule, all wireless electronic devices shall be rendered mute or set on vibrate when operated or used in the Senate chambers, in the gallery of the Senate chambers, in the hearings of Senate committees, in Senate party caucuses, or in any other official meetings of Senate members held in the Capitol or the Legislative Services Building.
- (2) Senators, legislative staff, witnesses, and others recognized to speak may use wireless electronic devices to play audio or video recordings while speaking in the Senate chambers, in the hearings of Senate committees, in Senate party caucuses, or in any other official meetings of Senate members held in the Capitol or the Legislative Services Building.
- (3) Wireless electronic devices shall not be used for any audible communications in the Senate chambers or in the gallery of the Senate chambers.
- (c) Violations of this rule shall be punishable as prescribed by the President of the Senate, and punishments may include, but need not be limited to, temporary or permanent confiscation of said electronic devices.

Committee Decorum

Georgia House



Rule 8

- **8.1** Applause, hisses, or other noises in the House chamber, in the gallery, in the lobbies, or committee meeting rooms during any speech or legislative proceeding shall be promptly suppressed. Placards, displays, banners, and signs are prohibited and shall be removed promptly.
- **8.2** The use of video cameras, movie cameras, cell phone cameras when used to record video, and similar devices on the floor of the House, in the gallery, in the lobbies, or committee rooms during any speech or legislative proceeding is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the Speaker or the chairman.
- **8.3** The Speaker shall have the power to cause the gallery and lobbies of the House to be cleared by the messenger, sergeant at arms, doorkeepers, or any member or members of the Uniform Division or Executive Security Guard Division of the Department of Public Safety permanently assigned to special duty in the House in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct therein. The Speaker shall have the power to cause any person so offending to be arrested and brought before the bar of the House in order to be dealt with for contempt of the House.

Rule 9. A committee chairman shall have the power to cause the committee room to be cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct therein.

[Source: Rules, Ethics, and Decorum of the Georgia House of Representatives](#)

Committee Decorum

Washington Senate

- The public is welcome in Senate committee rooms to watch their lawmakers in action and participate in the development of legislation. The legislative rules adopted by the Senate require basic order and decorum, a long-standing approach consistent with the important work being performed here. This requirement applies both to elected officials and members of the public.
- The Lieutenant Governor is charged with maintaining order and decorum, and his application of Senate Rules prohibits, among other things:
 - Signs, banners, placards, or other props that could be construed as an effort to promote demonstrations;
 - Open-carried weapons such as guns, firearms, and blades;
 - Audible or visual signals including whistling, calling, chanting, or waving;
 - Animals, other than service animals;
 - Applause and/or demonstrations;
 - Unattended Children.
 - Additionally, please:
 - Turn off your cellular telephones and other personal electronic devices;
 - Remove your hat before entering the Senate Committee Room.
 - Senate Security monitors and enforces the committee room rules.

Source: [Senate Committee Room Rules](#)



Committee Decorum

Wyoming

Management Council Policy 12-04

3. Public Conduct in Legislative Committee Meetings

- (a) The public is welcome to attend legislative committee meetings to observe or provide testimony on legislation under consideration by committees.
- (b) The chairman or, in the chairman's absence, the vice or acting chairman shall preserve order and decorum and shall have control of the committee room.
- (c) Unless called upon to testify by the chairman, individuals shall remain quiet and seated at all times. If seating is not available, individuals should stand quietly if space is available in the room.
- (d) No demonstrations will be allowed during committee meetings.
- (e) Individuals may not block doorways or impede the ability to move through the committee room.
- (f) Individuals attending a committee meeting should silence all audible electronic equipment.
- (g) Laptop computers and hand-held electronic devices used as a computer may be used by individuals, as long as the device's volume is turned off and its use is not disruptive.
- (h) Individuals may not conduct a verbal conversation on a cellular telephone or similar device in the committee room.
- (i) Individuals who wish to livestream or record audio and/or video or take photographs during the committee meeting should advise the chairman in advance of the meeting.
 - (i) Individuals with large video or audio equipment need to obtain advance approval from the committee chairman regarding location of equipment in committee rooms to ensure that the equipment does not obstruct views of other observers, impede ingress and egress through the committee room, or disrupt committee proceedings.
 - (i) The chairman may request individuals to relocate or discontinue the use of any equipment, that is situated, or used, in a manner that is deemed by the chairman to be disruptive.

Committee Decorum

Wyoming

Management Council Policy 18-03 (part 1/3)

The following rules and standards of decorum and civility shall apply to all committee meetings conducted during legislative sessions or during the interim between sessions of the Wyoming Legislature.

These rules are intended to supplement the general standards for decorum in the House and Senate committee rooms of the Wyoming Legislature contained in Management Council Policy 12-04.

The purposes for adopting rules of decorum are as follows:

- To ensure that meetings of legislative committees are efficiently conducted.
- To ensure that members of the public who attend meetings of legislative committees can be heard in a fair, impartial and respectful manner.
- To ensure that meetings of a legislative meeting are conducted in a way that is open to all viewpoints, free from abusive, distracting or intimidating behavior.
- To ensure that the rules governing decorum at meetings of legislative committees are understood in advance by everyone attending the meeting.

Committee Decorum

Wyoming

Management Council Policy 18-03 (part 2/3)

General Decorum Guideline

- Committee members, speakers and audience members will conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner at all times during a legislative meeting.

Rules for Speakers:

- Speakers will address all comments and questions to the Chairman.
- Speakers will refrain from the use of individual names.
- Comments will be directed to the issue under consideration. Testimony that strays far from the topic is out of order.
- Speakers will refrain from making comments of a personal nature that reflect upon the character or conduct of a committee member or another speaker. Personal criticism, ridicule and name calling is forbidden.
- Speakers will refrain from the use of indecent or obscene language, “fighting words” or other language which is disruptive to the orderly discussion at the meeting.
- Time limits for addressing the committee may be imposed depending on the committee’s agenda and the number of presenters.

Committee Decorum

Wyoming

Management Council Policy 18-03 (part 3/3)

Rules for Members of the Public:

- Audience members will refrain from distracting side conversations or speaking out when another person is talking.
- Audience members will refrain from shouting, booing or other similar unruly behavior that impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Enforcement of Decorum Rules:

- The Chairman will request that a person who is violating a rule of decorum cease the violation.
- If the violation continues, the Chairman will warn the person that he or she will be requested to leave the meeting room if the violation continues.
- If the violation continues, the Chairman will order the person to leave the meeting room.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of a serious or violent disruption of a committee meeting the Chairman will immediately order the person to leave the meeting room and may request any peace officer in attendance to remove the person.
- Serious disorderly conduct may result in criminal prosecution pursuant to W.S. 28-1-110(b) and W.S. 28-1-111.



Screening Policies

Alabama



ALABAMA STATE HOUSE VISITOR RULES & POLICIES



The Alabama Legislature welcomes visitors! The State House is generally open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and whenever the State Legislature is in legislative session. The building is usually closed on federal and state holidays. Through the adoption of these visitor rules and policies, the Legislature seeks to provide a safe, informative, and educational environment for all while visiting the Alabama State House. These rules and policies are not all inclusive and visitors at all times are subject to the circumstantial rules, guidelines, or restrictions imposed by authorized legislative personnel.

The following rules and policies shall apply to all visitors to the Alabama State House:

ENTRY POLICIES:

- The State House visitor entrance is located at the front doors of the building facing Union Street. An alternative entrance is located on the south side of the building facing Washington Avenue. This alternative entrance is for handicapped or physically disabled visitors, or for special events or occasions.
- Upon entry, all visitors must sign in and be processed through a security screening checkpoint. Visitors must pass through a metal detector and thermal imaging machine prior to admission to the facility, and all hand-carried bags, briefcases, or other items will be run through an x-ray and/or thermal imaging machine.
- **Weapons of any kind are not permitted in the State House.** Items considered to be weapons include open and obvious weapons such as firearms and knives of all kinds, but also includes electronic defense weapons, facsimile weapons, scissors, tasers, pepper spray, fireworks, firecrackers, sparklers, and any other items that can be used as a weapon. **Exceptions to this policy are made for APOST Certified active duty law enforcement officers in the commission of official duties or on official duty.** This exception does not apply to lobbying activities.
- Visitors attempting to bring firearms or other weapons into the State House will be asked to leave the State House grounds to store firearms or weapons in a safe place off-property.
- **Weapons not declared upon entry and passage through a security screening checkpoint are subject to confiscation or impoundment.**
- Signs, placards, posters, poster boards, balloons, musical instruments, noise-making devices, laser-pointers, art supplies, and other items that can be used as open and obvious distracting or attention-getting devices are prohibited within the State

Source: Alabama State House Visitor Rules and Policies

Alaska

V. Entry Procedures

A. Standard Entry Screening

- Visitors must enter through the front doors of the Capitol Building.
- All visitors will be screened by a walk-through magnetometer. However, visitors may opt-out of the walk-through magnetometer and be screened by a handheld magnetometer or a physical pat-down performed by a legislative security officer or contracted security personnel.
- All carried items will be screened by an X-ray device.
- A person who escorts or allows an individual without electronic access to the Capitol through a door other than the front door must escort the individual to the lobby of the Capitol Building for standard entry screening.

VI. Exemptions

A. State Employee Access

State employees with electronic access to the Capitol are exempt from screening.

B. Law Enforcement Access

Law enforcement officers and first responders are exempt from screening.

C. Legislator Family Access

Legislator family members with electronic access to the Capitol are exempt from screening.

VII. Prohibited Items

The following are prohibited in the Capitol Complex:

- Weapons or any objects that could reasonably be considered weapons or used to cause harm to occupants, including firearms, explosives, knives (except pocketknives with blades under 3 inches and knives used by legislative staff for food preparation or service), clubs, batons, and blunt-force objects.
- Items deemed dangerous by security, such as fireworks, flammable substances, or corrosive materials.

Visitors arriving with prohibited items must secure them offsite before entry will be granted. No storage facilities are available in the Capitol Complex.

[Source: Alaska Capitol Visitor Screening Police](#)

Colorado

CAPITOL SECURITY PROTOCOLS

Security at the Capitol

The Colorado State Patrol is responsible for the safety and security of the Capitol and all surrounding state buildings of the Capitol Complex. The security measures are in place to protect employees, visitors and state elected officials. Those who visit the Capitol building will be subject to controlled security measures and screening before entering the Capitol. There will be two entrance locations provided for your convenience. The main entrance is located on Colfax Avenue, north side of the Capitol, first floor. The second entrance is located at 14th Street, south side of the Capitol, basement door.

These security measures will include, but are not limited to:

- Putting personal items in a bin to be passed through an x-ray machine
- Passing through a metal detector
- X-ray and visual examination of all packages
- Packages and or bags subject to physical search

The security protocols are designed to expedite the security process and to ensure the safety of the Capitol Complex employees and visitors. When passing through the metal detectors, items that are metal (change, keys, etc.), and cell phones should be placed in one of the provided bins. Adults and/or children with special needs and/or medical devices will be assisted through the security process by a security guard or Trooper.

If there is a question regarding an object that is not clearly visible in the x-ray machine a physical search of the item will be conducted until the item is identified. Any person found in violation of the Capitol screening process will be detained for questioning. Any person who is in unlawful possession of a weapon will have the weapon confiscated.

Source: Colorado Capitol Security Protocols

West Virginia

Source: [Capitol Police Visitor Info](#)

What are the rules for entering Capitol Complex buildings?

Anyone without an electronic access card is subject to screening for prohibited items upon entry. This applies to members of the public, anyone making deliveries or conducting official business, contractors or vendors and employees entering through the public access points. The screening process involves passing through a magnetometer and placing any items that may set off the magnetometer into provided containers. Briefcases, purses, backpacks, packages and the like are placed through an X-ray machine.

What items are prohibited on the Capitol Complex grounds and buildings?

It is unlawful for any person to bring upon the State Capitol Complex any deadly weapon as defined in [W.Va. Code §61-7-2](#).

Firearms are prohibited in all buildings and on the grounds of the Capitol Complex, however, persons who may lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor vehicle upon the State Capitol Complex if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view:

A person may not carry upon the State Capitol Complex a cannister of pepper spray as defined in §61-7-2 that exceeds one ounce.

Weapons may be carried by federal, state, or local law enforcement officers or security personnel who, because of the nature of their work, are duly authorized to possess a firearm while engaged in their official capacity.

In addition to the items listed in W.Va. Code §61-7-2, the following items and activities are prohibited on the Capitol Complex:

- Fireworks or explosives
- Signs attached to sticks
 - Sticks
- Tactical helmets
 - Shields
- Illegal drugs, controlled substances and alcoholic beverages
 - Camping



Firearm Storage

Arizona Statutes

13-3102.01

A. If an operator of a public establishment or a sponsor of a public event requests that a person carrying a deadly weapon remove the weapon, the operator or sponsor shall provide temporary and secure storage. The storage shall be readily accessible on entry into the establishment or event and allow for the immediate retrieval of the weapon on exit from the establishment or event.

B. This section does not apply to the licensed premises of any public establishment or public event with a license issued pursuant to title 4.

C. The operator of the establishment or the sponsor of the event or the employee of the operator or sponsor or the agent of the sponsor, including a public entity or public employee, is not liable for acts or omissions pursuant to this section unless the operator, sponsor, employee or agent intended to cause injury or was grossly negligent.

D. For the purposes of this section, "public establishment" and "public event" have the same meanings prescribed in section 13-3102.

13-3108

C. A political subdivision of this state shall not require or maintain a record in any form, whether permanent or temporary, including a list, log or database, of any of the following:

1. Any identifying information of a person who leaves a weapon in temporary storage at any public establishment or public event, except that the operator of the establishment or the sponsor of the event may require that a person provide a government issued identification or a reasonable copy of a government issued identification for the purpose of establishing ownership of the weapon. The operator or sponsor shall store any provided identification with the weapon and shall return the identification to the person when the weapon is retrieved. The operator or sponsor shall not retain records or copies of any identification provided pursuant to this paragraph after the weapon is retrieved.

2. Except in the course of a law enforcement investigation, any identifying information of a person who owns, possesses, purchases, sells or transfers a firearm.

3. The description, including the serial number, of a weapon that is left in temporary storage at any public establishment or public event.



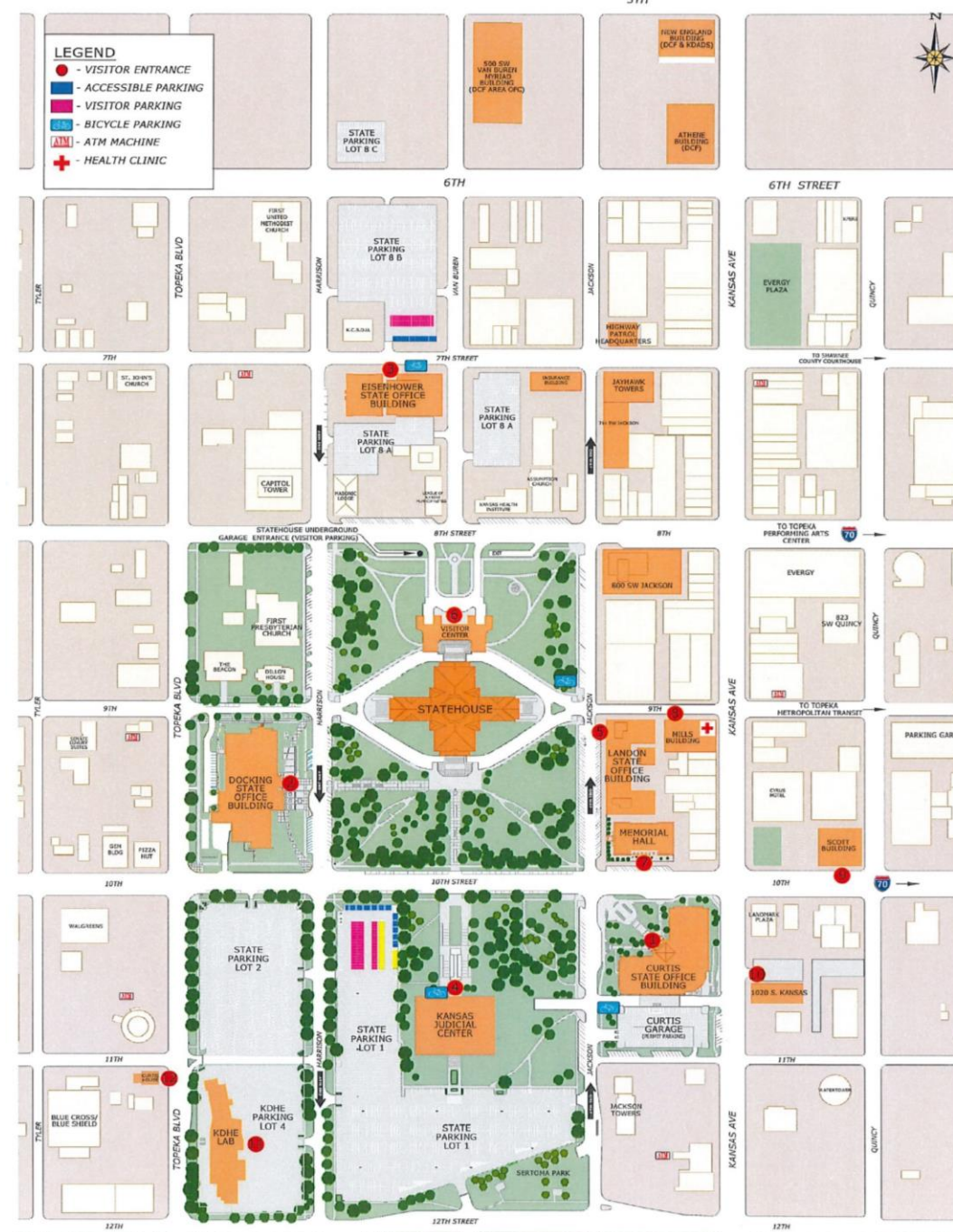
Capitol Complexes

Source: Georgia Building Authority



Kansas

Source: [Kansas Dept. of Administration](#)





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