



# State Capitol Security Overview

September 22, 2025



# Data Collection



## Interview

- Contacted all 50 states with survey questions
- Collected data directly from 38 states



## Research

- Supplemented interviews with digital research and existing NCSL resources



## Aggregate

- Aggregated the data for privacy



# Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

*Does your state capitol prohibit the public from carrying firearms?*

Status	Number of States
Prohibited	25 states
Not prohibited	5 states
Combination	7 states



# Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

## Exceptions



***Are there any exceptions for the public?***

Exceptions	Number of States
None	13 states
Law enforcement, military, or security personnel	9 states
Concealed carry	1 state

# Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

## Exceptions

### **Examples and Stipulations**

- Some states require law enforcement to be uniformed and on official business
- Enhanced concealed carry licenses
- Carry in the building, but not the chambers or select offices
- Concealed carry allowed, open carry prohibited
- Open carry allowed, concealed carry prohibited

# Public Entrances

*How many public entrances does your capitol building have?*

Number of Public Entrances	Number of States
1-2 entrances	20 states
3-5 entrances	15 states
More than 5 entrances	2 states



# Public Entrances

*Are there screenings at the capitol building's public entrances?*

## What do they entail?

Screenings	Number of States
Metal detector and bag search	30 states
No screening	8 states

## Other Approaches

- Some states have capacity or devices on hand for certain occasions
- Some states prohibit firearms but have no screening
- No screening but stationed security or law enforcement



# Public Entrances

- There can be differing policies between buildings or even offices within a single building
- Staff and members typically have access to separate entrances or lines





# Cameras

*Does your capitol building use cameras and/or technology for security purposes?*

- Every state we spoke with answered “yes”
- Several states cited this as a recent upgrade
- For those who shared, the number of cameras ranged from 100-330
- Some only include public areas



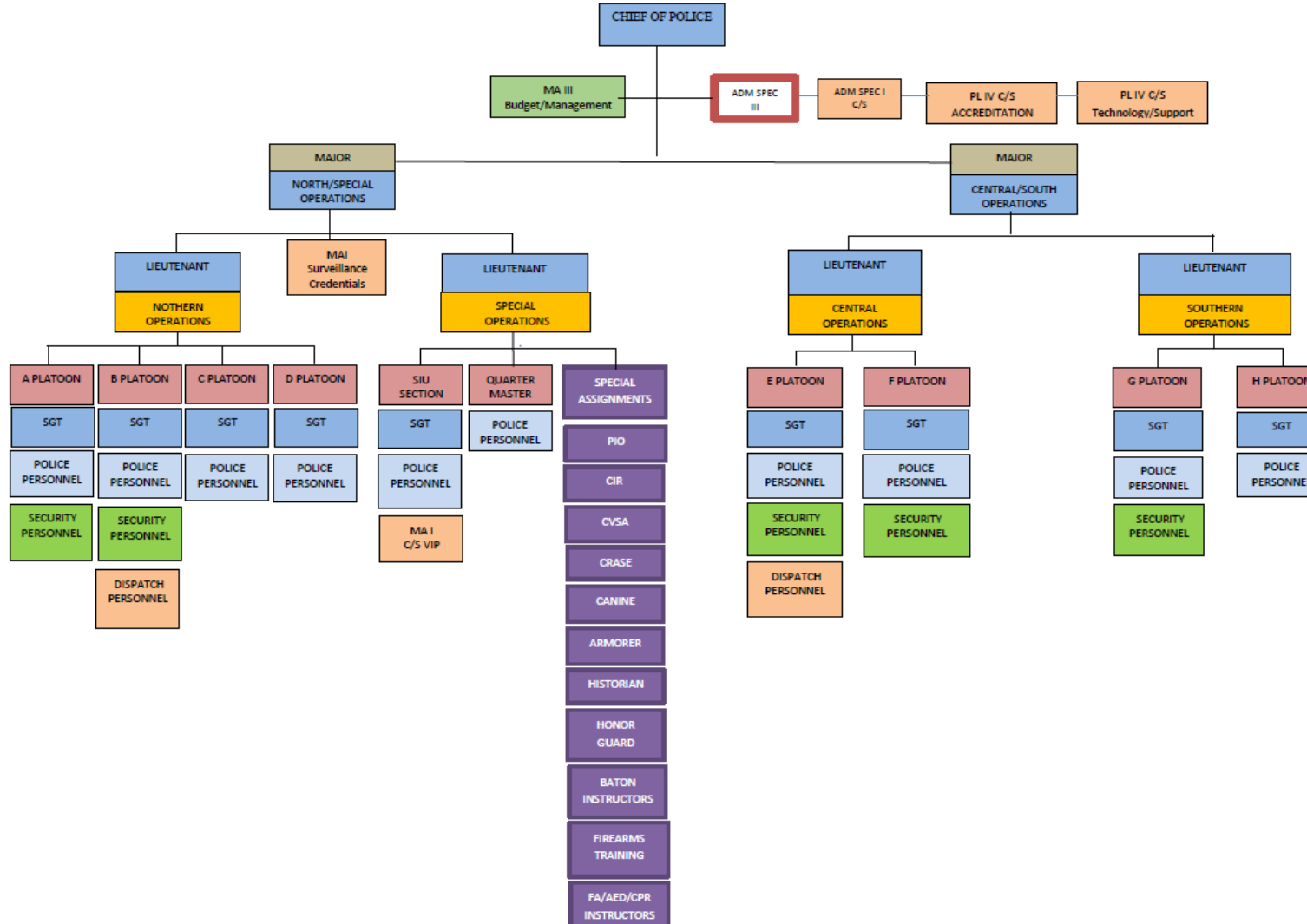
# Security and Law Enforcement



***Who is the primary law enforcement or security agency?***

Security Type	Number of States
Capitol or state police	36 states
Legislative police department	4 states
Legislative security	1 state exclusively 6 states supplementally
Private security	5 states supplementally

# DELAWARE CAPITOL POLICE



99 Full-Time Employees  
4 Casual Seasonal

80 Police Officers  
1 Chief  
2 Majors  
4 Lieutenants  
10 Sergeants  
63 Capitol Police Officers I-III

11 Senior Security Officers  
5 Communications Dispatchers  
1 Administrative Specialist III

1 Management Analyst I  
1 Management Analyst III

## Casual Seasonal

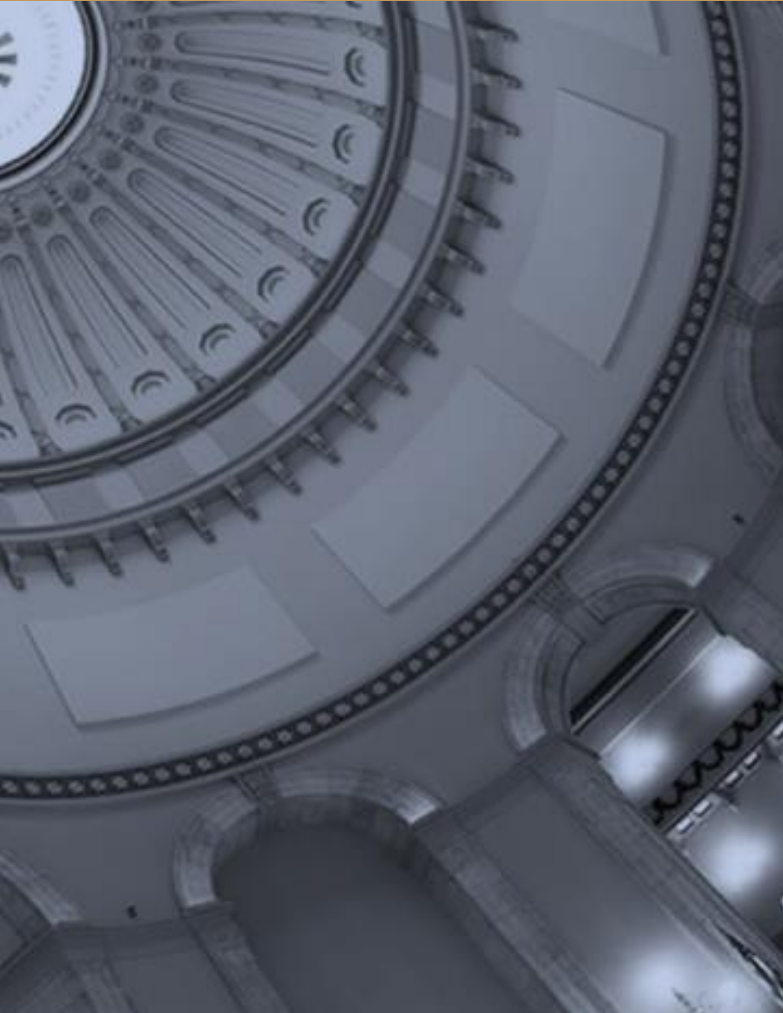
1 Management Analyst I (Admin)  
1 Management Analyst I (VIP)  
1 Planner (Accreditation)  
1 Planner (Technology/Support)

Updated 1/12/23

Source: <https://capitolpd.delaware.gov/about/index.shtml?dc=divisions>



# Capitol Complex Buildings



***How many buildings are on your capitol grounds?***

Number of Buildings	Number of States
One building	3 states
2-5 buildings	20 states
6-9 buildings	10 states
10+ buildings	7 states



# Sergeants at Arms

*Where do your sergeants at arms have jurisdiction?*

Sergeant Role and Jurisdiction	Number of States
Chamber space only	31 states
Armed or LEO	4 states
Ceremonial and decorum	15 states
Session only	6 states
No sergeant at arms	1 state



# Capitol Security Funding



## *How is your capitol security funded?*

Funding Source	Number of States
Legislative operations budget	6
Agency appropriations	13
Combination	8

- At least one example of a one-time legislative appropriation for enhanced security improvements
- Specific amounts for capitol police are often not broken out
- At least two examples of legislative budgets paying for overtime or making up for costs beyond the agency appropriations line item





Thank you!



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