

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the House and where is the Senate?

The House is the building that is just east of the old Capitol (the one with the copper dome) and just a little bit to the north. The Senate is the building that is just east and just a bit south of the old Capitol. These two buildings look similar and each is marked appropriately. You must go through security to get into the House – they look through your bag and you must go through a metal detector, so plan a few extra minutes for appointments in the House.

Where is the Governor's office?

It is on the 8th and 9th floors of the tower building that is just west of the old Capitol and connected to the old Capitol via an addition. You must go through security to go into the tower complex.

Where are the legislators' offices?

Most of them are on the third floor of the Senate and the first and third floor of the House. The leadership offices are on the second floor of both chambers, although the minority leadership is on the third floor in the House.

Can I just go back to the offices for my appointment?

No, you must check in with the guard at the front and sometimes they require you to sign in. The guard will call the legislator's assistant and that person will come out to get you for your appointment, unless you have arranged to meet elsewhere.

Can I go on the floor of the House or Senate?

Not generally. You can only go on the floor when they are adjourned and with the permission of the speaker or senate president and when you are accompanied by a legislator. Sometimes a legislator will invite you to the lounge area that is adjacent to the floor. You access the floor from the second floor.

Can I watch from the third-floor gallery in the House and Senate?

Yes, the gallery is open so you can watch the legislators while they are in Committee of the Whole, doing Third Reads, or just opening up the day. You do not need to check in with the guards to go to the gallery. There are some rules, however. You cannot take any drinks in there, even a water bottle. You need to put your cell phone on silent. You also need to make sure you do not put your feet on the back of the seats. Also, shouting down to the legislators is prohibited, as are signs of any kind. We recommend wearing a mask in this area due to COVID and there being a larger group.

Where are the restrooms at the Legislature?

The largest and easiest to find restrooms are on the first floor of the House, on the west side of the building. There are also drinking fountains just outside those restrooms. There are restrooms on every floor of the House and Senate and also in the historic Capitol building. You will have to go through security to use the House restrooms. **We encourage you to wear mask while inside the buildings.**

Where are the request-to-speak kiosks?

There are kiosks on the first floor of the Senate, where there are three kiosks in the front lobby, and the House, where there are three sign-in computers in the east hallway. Please do this while you are there. You can then make comments from your phone or home computer.

Where are the committee hearing rooms?

They are on the first floor of the House and Senate and they do have signs outside telling you which hearing room it is. Senate Hearing Room 109 (SHR109) is located at the back of the Senate on the first floor. House Hearing Room 1 (HHR1) is also the majority caucus room and can be accessed from the west hallway near the bathrooms on the first floor. The minority caucus room is House Hearing Room 2 and can be accessed from the lobby area on the first floor.

What do I need to do when I arrive for my appointment?

Your group leader will check in with the guard for your appointment, but if you are running late and are not with your group, just let the guard know and let him/her/them know you have an appointment.

What if my legislator cancels the appointment or wants to reschedule for when I cannot meet?

That does happen at the Capitol. If you can come back another day, just let your group leader know and we will make arrangements to have someone go with you. Don't take it personally as legislators do not control the schedule. The speaker and senate president do that.

How do I reschedule an appointment or make a future appointment with my legislators?

You can just call the legislators' assistants and they will usually go ahead and schedule one, but again, we can help you with that and we do encourage you to continue meeting with legislators both in district and at the Capitol.

What if my legislator asks a question for which I do not know the answer?

Just say "I don't know." You can get back to him/her/them with additional information. You are not expected to know the answer to every question he/she/they might ask.

Is the old Capitol still used?

Yes, it is. It is a museum and quite lovely and interesting to visit. There is no cost to visit it. You can also use the Historic Senate Chambers or Supreme Court Chambers for gatherings.

Where can I park for Environmental Day?

There is parking adjacent to Wesley Bolin Plaza, on the southeast corner of 17th Avenue and Adams St. There is also parking west of the Executive Tower at the northeast corner of 19th Avenue and Jefferson.