

Idaho State Capitol Building

Guidelines and Policies for Public Usage

Revised March 7, 2021

Certain rooms of the Idaho State Capitol building are available for limited use for public events. The Idaho Capitol Commission policy provides: “A public event is any event open to the public and to which the public has full access. The Capitol building cannot be reserved for private events (weddings, receptions, proms, parties, and so forth).” *Decisions regarding usage of spaces in the Idaho Capitol Building, with the exception of the Second Floor, will be made by the presiding officer of the respective Chamber, in accordance with these guidelines (see Idaho Code §67-1602).*

To help facilitate public meetings or events and to make your use of the rooms more enjoyable, the following protocols have been established:

Building Preservation

The Capitol is a historic structure, and care must be taken to preserve it.

- Please do not move any building furnishings. Do not drag anything across marble floors.
- Posters, stickers, signs, banners or other materials shall not be adhered to any interior or exterior walls, pillars, portraits, staircases, or other surfaces in the building.
- Do not lean or prop anything against any surface in the Capitol building. All displays, placards, and other items must be free-standing.
- Do not place any items on the railings of the Rotunda or stairways.
- Helium balloons are prohibited inside the Capitol.
- Candles and other sources of open flame are prohibited.

Safety

To help ensure safety of the public during an approved public meeting:

- Electrical cords must be protected by cord covers or gaffers’ tape to prevent a trip hazard.
- Children participating in any event must be accompanied by an adult or responsible party.
- Tables, chairs, exhibits, and other items must not block offices or room entrances or restrict the flow of pedestrian traffic or emergency egress.
- Items such as packages, briefcases, and backpacks are subject to search.

Sound Level

The Capitol building is a working office building. Members of the public in the Capitol must not be disruptive and shall be considerate of those working in the building.

- Bands, choirs, musical performances or other activities that might cause a disruption to those working in the building must be pre-approved by the presiding officer of either Chamber or their designee.
- Public address systems, stereo amplifiers, and other sound-amplifying devices are prohibited inside the Capitol, unless pre-approved by the presiding officer of either Chamber or their designee.
- In the event that sound from an event is disruptive to the conduct of business, the event organizers will be asked to reduce the sound level to acceptable levels or to end the event.

Setup and Cleanup

- Sponsoring organizations will be responsible for setting up and removing all items associated with their events, in a timely fashion and without disrupting business or hindering public access to the Capitol Building.

- Tables and chairs are not allowed in the East and West Wing hallways.
- Furniture must not be relocated, and meeting rooms must be left clean and orderly, and in the same condition as they were before the event. The organization reserving the space is responsible for the condition of the space after use, as well as for any missing items and for any damages to the facility or contents.

Reservations

Room reservations are handled by the House or Senate, depending upon the location of the room being reserved.

- **Capitol Business Hours:** Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays and Holidays: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed Sundays. Outside groups using the Capitol building for meetings must schedule their meetings so they will conclude by the normal closing time of the building.
- Reservations cannot be made more than one year prior to the event.
- Reservations are generally made for one day or a portion of a day. Any event or meeting exceeding one day in length must be approved in advance by the Speaker of the House or the President Pro-Tem of the Senate.
- During the legislative session, legislative business always has priority. Consequently, reservations may be rejected, pre-empted or subject to cancellation.
- First and fourth floor Rotunda areas are scheduled through the Senate President Pro Tem's office (208.332.1302, mjones@senate.idaho.gov). Only one event during any time slot can be scheduled, on either the first or the fourth floor of the Rotunda. The third floor of the Rotunda cannot be scheduled and is not available for events.
- Meeting rooms in the West Wing, including the Auditorium, Legislative Dining Room, and the Senate caucus rooms on the Fourth Floor are scheduled through the Senate President Pro Tem's office (208.332.1302, mjones@senate.idaho.gov).
- Meeting rooms in the East Wing and the House caucus rooms on the Fourth Floor are scheduled through either the House Sergeant at Arms during the legislative session (208.332.1150, jwall@house.idaho.gov) or the Speaker's Office during the interim (208.332.1112, tfranks@house.idaho.gov).
- Unless otherwise requested, all scheduled events during the legislative session will be listed on the Legislative Social Calendar.
- Legislators may be notified of an event by having the Sergeants at Arms place a flyer in legislative mailboxes, through the Legislative Social Calendar, or by regular mail or e-mail.

House and Senate Meeting Rooms

- Members of the public may reserve Senate and House meeting rooms for limited purposes. These rooms are generally available during normal Capitol hours. Public use of these rooms must meet the following criteria:
 - No sales, financial solicitations, or admission/registration fees are allowed.
 - The meeting must be open to the public, except for executive sessions as provided by law.
 - The Capitol Building does not have tables or chairs available for use by outside groups.
 - Signs, banners, or other advocacy items are permitted only with the express permission of the agency or group hosting the meeting. If questionable, please contact the Pro Tem's Office (208.332.1302), or the Speaker's Office (208.332.1111) for approval before posting signs or banners.
 - The agency or group using these rooms may be charged for additional technical, custodial, or security services, as deemed appropriate by the Pro Tem or Speaker.

- Members of the public are not allowed to attach signs, posters, notes, etc., to walls, doors, windows, or any other surface within the Capitol Building. Demonstrators are not allowed to block hallways or access to and from rooms and offices. Loud or distracting noises are not permitted in the hallways or hearing rooms.

Welcome Room (Garden Level, directly below the central Rotunda)

- This room is a staging area for tour groups and is utilized year-round for the Capitol Tour Program, and the public is always welcome. Visitors watch the *Capitol of Light* DVD, school groups eat their lunches in this room, and the Capitol Curator often utilizes the desk in this room.
- Scheduled or impromptu use of this room for meetings or other purposes besides the Capitol Tour program is not prohibited, but it is discouraged simply because the room is heavily used by visitors and may often be unavailable for a specified period of time.
- Food and drink is allowed in this space.

Rotunda

The First and Fourth Floor Rotunda areas are available for short-term use by the public during the legislative session. Please note: Tables, chairs, or any displays may NOT block the north, south, east, or west corridors into the rotunda area. Organizations holding events in the rotunda areas must supply their own tables, chairs, easels, etc., and all items must be freestanding and self-supporting. Tables must be NO LONGER than six feet. All items should be transported to the Fourth Floor Rotunda via the east rotunda elevator.

- Events scheduled in the Rotunda areas must meet the following criteria:
 - No sales, financial solicitations, or admission/registration fees are allowed.
 - The event must be open to the public.
 - Signs, banners, or other advocacy items are permitted only with the express permission of the agency or group hosting the event. If questionable, please contact the Pro Tem's Office (208.332.1302), or the Speaker's Office (208.332.1111) for approval before posting signs or banners.
 - The agency or group using the Rotunda may be charged for additional technical, custodial, or security services, as deemed appropriate by the Pro Tem or Speaker.
- Members of the public are not allowed to attach signs, posters, notes, etc., to walls, doors, windows, or any other surface within the Capitol Building. Demonstrators are not allowed to block hallways or access to and from rooms and offices. Loud or distracting noises are not permitted in the Rotunda or the surrounding hallways. Backpacks, purses and other containers may be subject to search.

Food and Beverages

The food and beverage policies vary depending on the area of the Capitol building being used, as follows:

- No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any areas of the Capitol building.
- Senate and House Hearing Rooms: Food is NOT permitted in the East and West Wing hallways or in the hearing rooms. Nonalcoholic beverages are allowed if they have a lid or a covered top; this includes canned or bottled beverages. Food and beverages are NOT allowed in the JFAC room (Room C310).
- With prior permission, food and nonalcoholic beverages are allowed in the following rooms: Senate Caucus Room (W433), House Caucus Room (E403) Senate Fourth Floor Lounge (W423) and House Fourth Floor Lounge (E413).
- The Legislative Dining Room (West Wing) may be reserved when the Legislature is not in session. For health and safety reasons, the kitchen is not available for any events.

- Food and beverages are allowed in the Rotunda. Please refrain from serving food or beverages that might stain the floors.
- Food and beverages are NOT allowed in the House and Senate Chambers and Galleries.

Groups whose events include food and/or beverages (where those are allowed) are required to remove all remaining food as well as empty bottles, boxes, cans or other leftover containers. These items should be bagged in large plastic trash bags and removed from the Capitol building. Meeting rooms do not have adequate waste receptacles to accommodate large amounts of trash or recyclable items. Therefore, groups are responsible for the cleanup and removal of such items following their events.

Parking

Attendees at meetings held in the Capitol building can park for a maximum of three hours per vehicle, per day, in spaces marked “Capitol Visitor Parking” in the lot at 6th and State Streets, adjacent to the University of Idaho Law School building (formerly the Capitol Annex/old Ada County Courthouse). No permit is required to use these spaces. Attendees can also utilize metered parking spaces on 6th Street, 8th Street, or Jefferson Street; there is no parking available on State Street.

Parking for Agency-Sponsored Meetings Only

Limited parking spaces are available for attendees at state agency-sponsored meetings held in the Capitol building, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about this parking option, contact parking@adm.idaho.gov for instructions on obtaining a permit, which is required in order to use these spaces.

IT Information

- IT support is available through Legislative Services during normal business hours, at (208) 334-4848 or (208) 334-4747, or sjacobsen@lso.idaho.gov.
- Hearing rooms are equipped with a projector and screen. Each hearing room is also equipped with a laptop for PowerPoint presentations as well as web access. Please use the laptop provided for your presentation. For assistance with this equipment, please contact Legislative Services, as listed above.

Enforcement

Decisions regarding usage of spaces in the Idaho Capitol Building, with the exception of the Second Floor, will be made by the presiding officer of the respective Chamber, in accordance with these guidelines (see Idaho Code §67-1602). Holding a public event at the Capitol is contingent upon compliance with these guidelines. If an event is determined to be in violation of any guideline herein, or to be creating an undue disturbance, the event will not be allowed to continue.



Senator Chuck Winder
President Pro Tem of the Senate



Representative Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House

APPROVED _____ March 7, 2021 _____

APPROVED _____ March 7, 2021 _____