

CAPITOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

Tips to empower you in your advocacy at the Texas Capitol

BEFORE YOU COME

Plan your trip by checking the weather, planning your route, packing snacks and chargers, and dressing appropriately.

CAPITOL ATTIRE

Most TFVC Capitol events, such as our Citizen Engagement Days and opportunities to testify in committee, will require business or business casual attire. Wearing a TFVC shirt and other comfortable clothing is encouraged for the Freedom Fight.

PARKING

The best parking is located at the Texas Capitol Visitor's Garage.



Scan for more information about Visitor's Parking

If Visitor's Parking is full, please use the garage at the Bob Bullock Museum.



Scan for more information about Bob Bullock Museum Parking

For an overview of parking at the Capitol:



Scan for more information about Capitol Parking

ENTRANCES

The Capitol has four entrances: North, South, East, and West. The East and South entrances are the most popular and often the slowest. If you see long lines at these entrances, consider using one of the other entrances.

ACCESSIBILITY

All Capitol facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities or parents with strollers. However, the only stroller and chair accessible entrance into the Capitol building itself is the North Entrance. The elevators at the Capitol can be crowded and slow, but it is absolutely possible to fully participate in Capitol events with strollers or wheelchairs, it just requires a little extra planning and patience.

SECURITY

When you enter the Capitol, you will place all of your possessions, including the contents of your pockets, onto the x-ray machine before passing through the metal detectors. Additionally, you might be wanded by a DPS Trooper. You do not have to present an ID to enter the Capitol through the general security line.

HANDGUNS

If you are exercising your Second Amendment rights without a license, you must use the West entrance. If you have a license, you can use any entrance and bypass the metal detectors by using the separate security checkpoint next to the general security line and presenting your license to the DPS officer.

CAPITOL LAYOUT

Once you have entered, the most vital tip to navigating the Capitol is knowing the difference between the main floors and the Extension. The main floors consist of five levels: Ground Floor, First Floor (where you enter), Second Floor, Third Floor, and Fourth Floor.

There are two additional underground floors, called the Extension. All of the rooms on the Extension floors are labeled with either E1 or E2, with E2 being the lower of the two underground floors.

ELEVATORS

the north wing elevators are the only sets that go to all floors, including the extension. The elevators located within only the extension will get you between the extension floors or allow you to exit the Capitol, but if you accidentally leave, you will have to re-enter and pass through security again, so be careful using these elevators!

RESTROOMS

While there are facilities located on every level of the Capitol, the best restrooms are on the Ground Floor. The Ground Floor is one level down from the level with the Capitol entrances.

The best changing tables are located in the Ground Level and Second Floor restroom facilities. Harder to find: At the very end of the hallway with the E1.200 offices, there is a mother's room that also includes a changing table.

Two family use restrooms are also available just before you enter the main hall from the elevators on level E2.

FOOD

The Capitol Grill, located at E1.002, is the only place in the Capitol to purchase food. It is a friendly, lively cafeteria. That said, lines tend to get quite long, seating can be limited, and allergen-friendly options are lacking. This is why we encourage you to bring your own food and snacks when coming to the Capitol.

CAPITOL ETIQUETTE

TFVC is known as the friendly voice of vaccine choice. This does not stop at the Capitol doors. Here are ways we continue that spirit while advocating inside the Capitol:

Addressing Legislators: Always use the correct title—Representative or Senator. If a legislator is a chair of a committee, the appropriate title is Chairman or Chairwoman.

Gallery Rules: If your TFVC event includes a visit to the House or Senate Gallery, where the public sits to watch legislative proceedings, you need to know that no signs, placards, or tripods are permitted in the gallery. Additionally, guests must maintain decorum at all times and you will be asked to remove your hat, if you are wearing one.

MOST IMPORTANTLY!

We presume that everyone is a friend in this fight. Whether you are speaking to a staffer, an elected official, or a Capitol Grill cook, we always greet everyone with warmth. Friend or foe, we treat everyone with the same level of respect. We seek to understand everyone's position, and then we share ours with them.

MAPS / PLANS



Scan here to find the best maps/plans of the Capitol complex