

CAPITOL VISITOR POLICY
Adopted by Legislative Council
September 26, 2024

The Alaska Capitol is one of the smallest state capitol buildings in the nation. The original design as a federal and territorial building did not contemplate legislative activity, nor did it consider the possibility of a large number of visitors, both Alaskans and tourists, regularly transiting the building.

This policy seeks to balance the right to free speech and peaceful assembly under the United States and Alaska constitutions with the structural limitations of the Capitol and the normal and essential conduct of legislative and other state business. Narrow hallways, limited chamber gallery and committee room space, and small offices necessitate limiting signs, noise, and other activities or items that are considered to present a risk to people or property or are disruptive to the course of legislative business.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of a presiding officer or chair of a committee to manage or maintain order in a chamber or gallery during a floor session or committee meeting.

COMMITTEE ROOM RESTRICTIONS

The following activities and items are prohibited in all committee rooms:

- Signs or banners of any kind.
- Shouting or use of a noise-making or voice-amplifying devices, including, but not limited to, whistles or bullhorns.
- Cell phone notification sounds or calls (phones must be on silent).
- Items that could reasonably be viewed as a weapon or that might cause harm to occupants.

**Per Uniform Rule 3(c), the chambers are subject to the rules set forth by the presiding officers and sergeant-at-arms.*

SIGNS

Visitors are permitted to hand-carry a paper-based poster board or placard type sign up to 11x17 inches in the Capitol corridors and lobby. All signs in the Capitol must be handheld: no handles, sticks, supports, poles, posts, or other item may be used to hold up signs.

A person holding a sign may not obstruct the passage of another person through the Capitol Complex.

A sign will be confiscated if it is used to disturb, or used in a manner that will imminently disturb, the Alaska State Legislature, one of its houses, a committee, a member, or a public employee in the performance of their duties.

All unaccompanied signs will be considered abandoned property and may be disposed of.

NOISE AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

The following behaviors are prohibited at the Capitol Complex:

- Conduct that creates loud and unusual noise, or that obstructs the typical use of an entrance, foyer, corridor, office, elevator, stairway, or parking lot, or that otherwise may impede or disturb a public employee in the performance of their duties.
- Improper disposal of trash, spitting, creation of any hazard to a person or thing, throwing an article of any kind from the Capitol, climbing upon any part of the Capitol, and the destruction, damage, or unauthorized removal of property or any part thereof.
- Use of a noise-making or voice-amplifying devices, including, but not limited to, whistles or bullhorns, inside the Capitol.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES

This policy applies to all legislative facilities.