

Farm Bureau's Capitol Experience

CAPITOL INFORMATION

WELCOME! Farm Bureau is pleased to host *Capitol Experience* and we hope your day at the Capitol will be informative and enjoyable. Below are a few tips that can help you make the most of your visit to the Statehouse.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS -- You are welcome to attend committee meetings. Most committee rooms are small, so seating is limited. The size of the public seating area varies with each committee room. Room 313-S, the old Supreme Court chamber, is the largest of all the meeting rooms.

You may enter or leave a committee room at any time, as long as you do so quietly and with as little disruption as possible. If people are testifying in the committee, we suggest you leave between speakers and not in the middle of a presentation, if possible. No food or drinks are allowed in committee rooms (except by legislators and staff).

SENATE AND HOUSE GALLERIES -- The public is welcome to view the Senate and House of Representatives' sessions from the public galleries on the 4th floor. The public is not allowed access to the legislator areas of the chambers. The Senate gallery is much smaller than the House gallery. A Sergeant at Arms can assist you with seating. They also enforce the gallery protocols. No standing is allowed in the galleries. Cell phones, photographs, food, drink and talking are also prohibited.

In the Senate, voting is generally conducted by voice roll call. Senators are formally addressed by noting the county in which they reside. The House of Representatives has an electronic voting system and board, which displays votes.

The architecture, adornments and color schemes of the two chambers vary greatly. Each has its own special features. The House chamber was renovated following the 1998 Session. The restoration included uncovering several murals on the ceiling. The Senate has unique columns. They are decorative and, at one time, functioned as conduits for the heating system. A renovation of the Senate chamber and the east wing was completed in 2005. Renovations of the entire Statehouse are ongoing, so access to some parts of the building is restricted.

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STAIRS/ELEVATORS -- There are three elevators in the Capitol and at least two staircases connecting each floor. Please use the stairs as much as possible. The elevators are small and relatively slow. There is a historic fully operational cage elevator located in the east wing that you may want to ride once during your visit.

THIRD FLOOR CHAMBER ENTRANCES -- Please avoid the area outside the third floor entrance to each chamber while legislators are in session. This is a busy and often crowded area at those times. Lobbyists who are following a particular action generally use the benches in this area.

INFORMATION BOOTH -- located on the 1st Floor east wing across from the cage elevator, has books and Kansas souvenirs available for purchase.

DIRECTIONAL REFERENCE -- If you need to identify which way is north or south, go to the center railings on floors 2 through 4 and look down. There is a compass embedded in the tiles on the 1st floor.

SNACK BAR -- The main snack bar is on the 1st floor, west wing. A smaller snack bar is located on 3rd floor, outside the Senate chambers. You may purchase snacks and drinks but remember, they are not allowed in the galleries or committee rooms.

RESTROOMS -- Restrooms are located on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th floors.



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