

## **Kentucky General Assembly 2026 Accessibility** **Updated as of January 7th, 2026**

As an advocate for your issues in Frankfort, knowing how to maneuver the rules in place for Capitol Campus visitors and how to access legislators, whether one-on-one or in a public hearing capacity, is critical to advocating for the issues important to you and to your organization.

Every session, adjustments are made by the Kentucky General Assembly that impact your ability to participate and be a part of the process. Below is a summary of how we expect the session to logistically operate and how you can best access the legislative process in 2026.

**TRAVELING TO FRANKFORT & PARKING:** At this time, due to the number of changes in how the general public can access the Capitol Annex, KVH/AAN suggests plugging in "**175 Old Lawrenceburg Road, Frankfort KY 40601**" into your GPS or mapping system. **You will NOT be going to that specific location**, but, this address will lead you to the bottom entrance of the Capitol Annex parking garage and let you bypass Capitol Campus construction. Once you have parked on one of the bottom three levels of the parking garage (Levels 4, 5, or 6), simply take the elevator up to 1, the top of the parking garage. If you have an official [Capitol Campus ID Badge](#), you may also enter the Annex through the parking garage Level 2 tunnel. [Here is a Capitol Campus map](#) that shows where you can find public parking, as well as locations for reserved parking (staff and legislators) and handicap sticker accessible parking. **Capitol Campus construction that began in 2024 is now isolated to the Capitol ONLY.**

**GENERAL ACCESS:** The general public has access to the Capitol Annex (legislative offices, committee hearings, etc.), however, access to the Capitol Building (domed building) while it is under construction is restricted.

- For general access, from the top level of the parking garage elevators, you will walk toward the Capitol entrance of the parking lot. So if you are facing the Capitol Annex, meander slightly to the right like you are walking towards the Capitol building itself for a moment, around the extra building (new/temporary legislative Chambers). Once you get to the sidewalk, just stick to the left side for the not-domed building/Capitol Annex.
- The Capitol Annex has multiple entrances, but you will need to enter in the middle entrance marked for visitors and this is where you will go through a security checkpoint. If an additional visitor entrance is needed, please note that the west-end/Floral Clock side of the Annex will be opened at LRC security's discretion.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS:** Wheelchair access for the Annex is at a rear entrance to the basement, the door underneath a white awning nearest the main visitor parking lot on the east side of the building. [Here is a Capitol Campus map](#) that shows each entrance as well as the nearest parking options. Please note that the "limited access badge" is currently unavailable due to the Capitol building closed for construction. However, for those with mobility and accessibility needs who are interested in obtaining a [Capitol Campus ID Badge](#) so they may regularly access the tunnel in the parking garage on Level 2, they should reach out to [Stephanie.Newberg@kylegislature.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Newberg@kylegislature.gov).

**The following parking and entrance changes in accessing the Annex during Session will be maintained until further notice.** Significant changes for 2026 include:

- The Capitol Building is CLOSED to all while it undergoes construction.
- With the exception of ADA parking spaces, there will be NO public parking on the top level of the parking garage (Level 1), anywhere behind the Annex, or on Levels 2 & 3 of the parking garage.
- **Public parking will be on Levels 4, 5, and 6 of the parking garage – the bottom three levels of the parking garage.**
- There continues to be limited street parking near the Capitol Campus including on Capital Avenue, State Street, Shelby Street and so forth. Please observe and adhere to any City of Frankfort parking restrictions or limitations if you choose to utilize street parking.
- ADA parking is available on Levels 4 and 5 of the parking garage nearest the elevators, as well as a handful on the surface parking lot on Level 1 nearest the Annex building.
- There are a handful of electric vehicle charging stations on the surface lot/Level 1 of the parking garage – these will continue to be available for anyone on a first come, first served basis.
- Tunnel access on Level 2 of the parking garage is limited to those with an official [Capitol Campus ID Badge](#) only – this includes: legislators, staff, registered legislative agents and anyone else with an official access badge.
- The new legislative Chambers building (temporary while the Capitol is under construction) will be closed to the public. For staff and legislators, the glass doors facing the parking lot/garage is an EXIT only. All members of the public should follow ‘visitor entrance’ signage posted throughout the parking lot when walking towards the Annex.
- Since 2023, general public access to the underground tunnel connecting the Annex and Capitol buildings is no longer allowed. This is currently a moot point until the Capitol Building construction is complete and reopened.
- The “lobbyist room” is now Annex Room 177, located in the west-end hallway between Committee Rooms 169-171 and the LRC Library.
- The LRC Library is still available and open to the public, however, if visitors need access after Chambers have gaveled in for the day during session, a reservation will need to be made. Once Chambers have adjourned, if still during normal business hours, the LRC Library will be open again under general access norms. Additional information available [HERE](#).
- Public restrooms for visitors are available in the center/middle hallways throughout every floor of the Annex. While visitors may have sporadic access to the east and west end hallways restrooms at times, access back to the main floors will be limited depending on the time of day and whether Chambers have gaveled in or not. After using east and west end hallways restrooms, guests will most likely need to go to the basement, return to the center/middle hallway, and return upstairs from there. When session is in Chambers, and occasionally during budget conference committees, some hallways will be restricted for staff and legislators only and signage will be posted as such.

**VISITOR IDENTIFICATION:** All individuals can enter the Annex with their standard identification (e.g. Real ID, drivers license). Upon entering the Annex, individuals will typically be asked where you are going (e.g. committee hearing, Annex cafeteria, legislator appointment, other meetings). Once security has seen and/or scanned your identification, you will enter your name into the digital kiosk near the metal detector. Enter the name you wish to have on your nametag. It is our understanding you do not have to wear the nametag printed for you at the door; however, we strongly suggest you at least keep it on your person for the duration of your visit that particular day.

**SCHEDULED ANNEX MEETINGS:** Each individual legislator determines how many people they are willing to meet with at one time. For slightly larger groups, conference rooms will occasionally be used, if available. When you arrive at the main visitor entrance of the Annex, you will let the security desk know you are there

for a meeting and go through the check-in process. Give yourself ample time to park, get through security and go to the floor needed for your meeting. There will occasionally be long lines to get through the security process and to enter the building. At times during recent sessions, the line to enter the Annex was long and took some individuals 45-minutes or more before they could get into the building and to the meetings they were there to attend.

**ANNEX EVENTS:** Various groups may choose to organize rallies, forums, advocacy days, media availability, or other special events throughout the session. If you are interested in reserving an Annex committee room or other meeting space, reach out to [LRCRoomReservations@kylegislature.gov](mailto:LRCRoomReservations@kylegislature.gov) to make this request. Please know that space is extremely limited and most days there are simply no remaining available options so the farther in advance you can make your request, the better chance you have of securing a space. Food is only allowed in specific Annex rooms, either for a legislator breakfast or for a legislator lunch. Additional information and necessary reservation forms to complete can be found [HERE](#).

The daily legislative calendar of meetings can always be found [HERE](#). During the active session (Jan. 6th-Apr. 15th), the calendar is updated daily, and during the 2026 interim, the legislative calendar is updated weekly. If you wish to receive or add an event to the social calendar to which legislators are invited, contact Melissa Scott in the Speaker's Office at [melissa.scott@kylegislature.gov](mailto:melissa.scott@kylegislature.gov). If you wish to receive email updates for the latest committee agendas, meeting rooms and times for all committee meetings, contact Kate Talley at [kate.talley@kylegislature.gov](mailto:kate.talley@kylegislature.gov) and request to be added to the LRC distribution list.

**CAPITOL EDUCATION CENTER & CAPITOL ANNEX LAWN EVENTS:** There are currently no known limitations to events scheduled in the Capitol Education Center or in the lawn area near the Rose Garden on the Capitol Annex lawn. If you would like to schedule an event (e.g. educational outreach, rallies, etc.), reserve these spaces, or have questions, contact Linda Stevens of Historic Properties with the Capitol Tour Desk at 502.564.3449 or [linda.stevens@ky.gov](mailto:linda.stevens@ky.gov).

**HOUSE/SENATE CHAMBERS & GALLERIES:** While the Capitol Building is closed for construction, the House and Senate galleries will temporarily be located in Annex committee rooms. Approximately an hour prior to Chambers convening each day, all committee rooms will be temporarily closed while legislative staff prepare rooms. Annex Committee Rooms 149 and 169 will be the House "galleries", and Annex Committee Rooms 154 and 171 will be the Senate "galleries". Please review the Annex's [Policy Guidelines for Meeting Rooms](#) ahead of time.

**SENATE & HOUSE RULES:** The 2026 rules for the Senate can be found [HERE](#), and the rules for the House can be found [HERE](#). All remaining Covid-19 era flexibilities that had been added to the rules have now been removed, and some new language about public and lobbyist access to the Chambers have been added since there will be no public or lobbyist access to the current Chambers. Signage within the Annex building that indicates where staff and legislators only 'beyond this point' may at times dictate where the Chambers boundary is. Hard copies of these rulebooks may be requested in the Public Bill Room (see below). Reminder: some of the changes made in 2025 included the ability for a Caucus to remove a member with two-thirds vote of their respective Caucus, as well as adjustments to the "previous question" to include explanation of vote, meaning, that once a previous question has been ordered by 3/5th's majority of members elected, that debate ceases on the bill and no other member will be permitted to debate, raise question, or explain their vote.

**PUBLIC BILL ROOM:** The [Public Bill Room](#) is open to the public, and is located in Room 029 in the basement of the Annex. Individuals can pick up copies of bills, of the *Legislative Record*, and more – full subscription and

prices [HERE](#). If you would like to have a regular subscription of materials in the Public Bill Room, please email Lawrence Tyree at [Lawrence.Tyree@kylegislature.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Tyree@kylegislature.gov) with questions.

**SESSION CALENDAR:** The [session calendar](#) has been approved by the Legislative Research Commission. It reflects the “typical” budget-session calendar of dates including any observed legislative holidays, bill request and bill filing deadlines, concurrence days, March’s veto recess period, and Sine Die Adjournment (the last day of session), which, in an even-numbered year session, must occur by midnight on April 15th. Keep in mind that as needed, the General Assembly can choose to “move” days, be it due to weather or procedural preferences.

**COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR:** The [standing committee meeting calendar](#) looks similar to the schedule in previous legislative sessions, but with some minor changes. Meeting rooms and times may be changed so please be observant of the committees you wish to follow, sign up for their email alerts as day of meeting times and locations can change quickly, and always give yourself plenty of time to arrive before committees begin should you wish to attend in person. Learn more about the membership, committee jurisdiction, and access meeting materials for all legislative standing committees [HERE](#) for the House and [HERE](#) for the Senate.

Committee Chairs may choose to limit the length of committee meetings to only one hour in order to accommodate cleaning of the rooms between meetings. However, we have also encountered multiple committee hearings that have lasted two-hours or more during recent sessions. It is important to develop relationships with Committee Chairs and/or Committee staff to better understand each Committee’s preferences. Because there is often a shortage of meeting rooms, most committees are not able to go beyond two hours during the session when another committee meeting is scheduled in that room. For these reasons and others, it is important to be early for meetings you wish to attend since they will typically be prompt in beginning on time.

Once Committees have ended for the day and legislators go to their respective Caucus meetings or other scheduled events, remember that all Committee rooms will be closed. As quickly as possible, legislative staff will open up the previously mentioned “galleries” – Annex Committee Rooms 149, 154, 169 and 171. Visitors are welcome to be in the hallways at this time of meeting room “transitions”, or, can visit the Annex Cafeteria located in the basement of the Capitol Annex and with daily lunch hours until 1:30PM Eastern.

**COMMITTEE AGENDAS:** Committee agendas are supposed to be available 48 hours prior to a scheduled committee meeting. Contact committee staff to request to be added to their agenda distribution list using the process described above, or, the names of these individuals can be found on each corresponding landing page for [House Standing Committees](#) and [Senate Standing Committees](#) pages. You will need to call 502.564.8100 and ask for them by name, or, you can email them by using the [FirstName.LastName@kylegislature.gov](mailto:FirstName.LastName@kylegislature.gov) method. The upcoming day’s [Legislative Calendar](#) will have agendas listed, and you can also email Kate Talley ([kate.talley@kylegislature.gov](mailto:kate.talley@kylegislature.gov)) to be added to the larger LRC distribution list to get information on all committees. However, depending on the timing of when committee staff issue agenda information, there is occasionally a delay on when you would receive agendas and other committee updates. Typically, being on a particular committee staff’s email list is going to be the most efficient way to receive timely updates.

**A rule change made by both the Senate and the House in 2021** allows bills to be placed on the agenda with only 24 hours’ notice. This means that an agenda you receive online or via email may not always reflect the agenda that is used during the meeting. We have also seen expedited bill movements using discretionary motions on the floor of both the House and the Senate, in order to quickly hear a bill intended to be voted on the same day it was passed by the committee. Use [Bill Watch](#) to track bills, get updates, and follow the action

through your organization's legislative activity. [Watching the live-streams](#) of committee activity also helps you to keep up with the latest bill movements.

**ACCESS TO & PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** We understand that all committee meeting rooms will be equipped to broadcast committee meetings, testimony, etc. Since committee proceedings have returned to pre-pandemic standards, we anticipate most testimony will be delivered in person, but virtual participation continues to be an option. Decisions for accommodations and flexibilities will likely be deferred to the Committee Chair's discretion. To watch committee hearings, you can access live meeting coverage via the [LRC livestream channels](#) (YouTube, KET). If you miss the meeting, both YouTube and KET will have archived committee meetings that you can watch within 24 hours after the meeting.

[Please review the LRC Policy Guidelines for Legislative Committee Rooms here](#) that describes the do's and don'ts preferences of the legislature on both decorum and technical use of meeting spaces in the Annex.

You can also contact specific committee staff if you are only interested in receiving a handful of committee communications and not updates for *all* committees. Please call 502.564.8100 and ask to speak with the staff person assigned to the committee you are interested in for assistance in being added to their committee distribution list.

**VIRTUAL/REMOTE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:** Requests for virtual/remote testimony should be made directly to the Committee Chair and/or Committee Staff Administrator (CSA). Before preparing your testimony, presentation or other materials including handouts you wish to disseminate to committee members, individuals should utilize the LRC's ["Presenting to Legislative Committees"](#) guidelines and recommendations page.

**WHO IS YOUR LEGISLATOR AND HOW DO YOU CONTACT THEM?** There are 100 House members and 38 Senate members. In 2026, all 100 House members are up for reelection and all even-numbered Senate districts are up for reelection.

Communications with legislators can be done remotely or in-person. See the latest [LRC news related](#) from January 2025 for useful tips on navigating the legislature.

- You are encouraged to use legislators' LRC email addresses and to leave messages for them by calling the MESSAGE LINE: 1-800-372-7181.
- A Spanish language line for legislative information is available by calling 1-866-840-6574.
- Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay at 7-1-1 to share feedback with their legislators.
- You can also call individual legislator offices at 502-564-8100 and speak with their legislative assistant ("LA") to leave a message or try to catch your legislator by phone. If you are calling your legislator, be sure that the LA you speak with knows that you are a constituent.
- If you are reaching out to your Representative or to your Senator for the first time, we suggest that you send them an email with this Subject Line: "I am Your Constituent!" Be sure to include your home address and a phone number so they can get in touch with you.
- All legislators have LRC email addresses. You can find current contact information for all legislators [HERE](#). We strongly encourage you to email legislators directly as opposed to using form letters. Please check out your legislator's bio page! Many have open surveys linked that you can fill out and let them know directly and officially your personal priorities, ideas, concerns and so forth.
- The process by which materials are approved for dissemination to members of the General Assembly are outlined in this [LRC Memo](#). Please note that this policy does NOT apply to handing materials

directly to legislators when you meet them in person; it only applies to when you wish for LRC to handle the physical distribution of your materials.

- o Note: The LRC Business Office is located in Room 076 of the Annex basement.
- o The memo explains notification to legislators of events such as receptions, luncheons, etc. Prior submission of event notification (e.g. put on the General Assembly Social Events Calendar) means that any printed materials regarding the same event, will not be disseminated.
- o If you plan to share materials with all legislators, the LRC Business Office requests that you do NOT individually address or label these documents.
- o Questions about the materials dissemination process should be directed to LRC Deputy Director for Business Operations Joy Kiser at 502.564.8100 ext. 59948.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** We will continue to update you with further information or clarification as it becomes available. If you have other information to share or have questions, please contact us!

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