



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON
State Capitol, Rm 216, Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4451

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI
State Capitol, Rm 103, Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925

Joint House/Senate Capitol Press Rules

Uniform Rule 11:

Uniform Rule 11 allows the press admittance to the chambers. Each member of the press is required to have a press pass and is required to use the press tables at the back of the chambers.

“Admission to Floor.

1. Members of the press may be admitted to a chamber. However, members of the press, when admitted, may use only facilities provided at the rear of the chamber for press purposes, and they may use only the perimeter aisles of the chamber for photographic purposes.”

Press Pass:

The LAA Executive Director’s Office will prepare a pass for each member of the press requesting access to the floor who are approved by the Rules Chairs. Press members will be required to review the Capitol Press Rules and sign an application for the pass that verifies they have read the rules and agree to abide by the rules. If a person fails to abide by the press rules, he or she will lose press privileges.

The press pass application must be signed by both the Senate and House Rules Chair and both the Senate and House Sergeant-at-Arms. Once signatures are complete the application is sent to the Executive Director’s Office. The applicant must email the Executive Director’s Office their current photo or have one taken by LAA Media Services Staff (TMLOB Rm 229). The Executive Director’s Office will then issue a press pass, email a copy of the approved application to each Rules Committee Chair, and post the applicant's photo to the Capitol Press Corps intranet page. The press pass will be valid for the entire current legislature and any special sessions, unless it has been revoked under the revocation policy.

While on Capitol Complex property, members of the press must wear a clearly visible and valid press pass issued by LAA, at all times.

Criteria:

It is the purpose of these rules to ensure that individuals who request a Capitol Press Pass meet minimum criteria, adhere to professional conduct standards, follow all Legislative Council policies and any safe floor session rules adopted by either presiding officer, and respect the dignity of the legislative chambers and the Capitol Complex. It is also the purpose of these rules that members of the press maintain professional decorum, at all times while on Capitol Complex property. This

includes but is not limited to refraining from use of profanity during interactions with members and staff of the legislative branch.

A press pass allows access to the legislative chambers for journalists and does not confer any additional benefit. A press pass does not guarantee seating for a journalist; seating in the press area of the chamber will be allocated on a first come basis.

Revocation Policy:

The power to accredit, revoke or modify a press pass rests in the hands of the Rules Committees. A press pass may be revoked if a journalist:

1. Outside the role of a journalist, engages in lobbying to influence legislative, executive or judicial decisions, except for testimony at a public hearing on a topic in which the journalist has recognizable and reasonable expertise.
2. Violates a press rule.
3. Is no longer employed by an established news source.

Capitol Press Rules:

Members of the press observing and broadcasting the floor session are guests on the chamber floor. Persons obtaining a press pass agree to abide by the following Capitol Press Rules:

1. Press members are permitted on the floor following the convening bells until the day's adjournment. However, press shall immediately vacate the chamber should the body go into recess and may return only after the bells have rung for the body to reconvene.
2. There shall be no entry into the chamber or movement during the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, or a floor vote. Movement during a vote may result in voiding the roll.
3. Photographers may use the side aisles to take pictures; however, they are not to pass the front row of desks on either side of the chamber. Photographers are **never** allowed to use the middle aisle.
4. Use of flash photography is always prohibited in the chambers.
5. Taking photographs of material on desks is not permitted.
6. While inside the chamber, members of the press are not allowed to talk to each other, to legislators, or to Floor Staff unless the body is at ease.
7. Members of the press may not approach legislators on the floor. Conversations must be initiated by legislators. Members of the press may only approach legislators after they are beyond the outer doors of the chamber.
8. The use of smart devices is permitted at the press tables for press related texting, social media communications and audio recording purposes only. Devices must be always placed on silent mode.

9. Eavesdropping is prohibited and audio recording or reporting of overheard private conversations is not allowed.
10. Audio recording is not permitted while the body is at ease.
11. No recorded interviews are permitted in the chamber.
12. Interviews conducted in any hallway within the Capitol Complex must not obstruct the hallway or entrance to an office. Ample space must exist for others to pass unrestricted.
13. In case of an emergency within the Capitol Complex, members of the press must conduct themselves in an unobtrusive manner that does not obstruct pathways nor increase risk of injury or confusion. Members of the press will follow all directions given by security personnel, first responders, Rules Committee and Floor Staff, including instructions to vacate the area. Any violation of this rule may result in immediate revocation of the press pass.
14. The required dress code when on the House/Senate floor is professional business attire, including suits and ties, dresses, and pantsuits (bolo ties are acceptable) with the following exceptions: cultural attire may be worn on Fridays; business casual attire on weekends and for camera operators (ex: dark pants, collared shirt). Blue jeans are never acceptable.
15. Amendments offered on the floor will be provided to the press after they have been moved by the sponsor. The Floor Staff will provide copies to those seated at the press tables.
16. Voting results can be obtained in the office of the Chief Clerk or Senate Secretary shortly after the vote has taken place.
17. Do not touch the voting boards or block their view. Please work with the Sergeant-at-Arms to find a space that least impedes the board.
18. Press seating is available on a first come, first served basis.
19. Do not occupy seats reserved for Pages.
20. No food is permitted in the chamber and beverages must be poured into a cup or glass.
21. Inside the chambers, the Floor Staff is responsible for enforcing these rules at the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.
22. Press is not permitted in the page rooms outside the chamber. They are for Floor Staff only.



Legislative Affairs Agency
PRESS PASS APPLICATION

NAME:			
ORGANIZATION:			
WORK PHONE:		CELL PHONE:	
WORK ADDRESS:			
EMAIL:			
LEGISLATURE:	Thirty-Third Legislature		
<i>By signing this form, you certify that you have read and agree to comply with the capitol press rules.</i>			
SIGNATURE:			

APPROVALS – MUST BE APPROVED BY BOTH RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

HOUSE		SENATE	
House Rules Committee Chair	Date	Senate Rules Committee Chair	Date
House Sergeant-at-Arms	Date	Senate Sergeant-at-Arms	Date
For LAA Office Use Only			
<input type="checkbox"/> Press pass created by LAA staff on _____			