



Navigating Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill is a complex and sprawling maze of tunnels, offices, meeting rooms, and more and this can make it a bit intimidating for those unfamiliar with the buildings comprising Capitol Hill. Follow these tips and the attached maps to help ease the uncertainty of navigating the halls of Congress.

Security

- **House**
 - If the lines at the Independence Avenue entrances seem long, go to New Jersey Avenue SE, South Capitol Street SE, and C Street SW to find the lesser used entrances. Some of these entrances may be reserved for congressional staff before 10:00 am EDT, so be sure you check the signage in front of the entrance to make sure use by the general public is permitted.
- **Senate**
 - If the lines at the Constitution Avenue entrances seem long, go to Delaware Avenue NE and First Street NE to find the lesser used entrances. Some of these entrances may be reserved for congressional staff before 10:00 am EDT, so be sure you check the signage in front of the entrance to make sure use by the general public is permitted.
- When going through security, be sure to place your bag on the conveyor belt to be x-rayed. Gentlemen will need to remove their wallets, belts, jackets, phones, and watches and place those on the conveyor belt as well before walking through a metal detector. Ladies will need to pass their purses through the x-ray machine as well but do not need to remove their jewelry. Shoes that contain any metal may need to be removed and placed on the conveyor belt before walking through the metal detectors.
- No outside food or drink is permitted in the Capitol Complex. If you have a medical issue that requires you to have food or drink with you, please bring a note from your physician to show the Capitol police officers.

Building Numbers

- **House**
 - Each office building is numbered:
 - Cannon – 0
 - *Example: 327 CHOB is on the third floor of Cannon.*
 - Longworth – 1
 - *Example: 1223 LHOB is on the second floor of Longworth.*
 - Rayburn – 2
 - *Example: 2449 RHOB is on the fourth floor of Rayburn.*
 - House offices have three or four numbers. Any four digit office number starting with a 1 is located in Longworth. Any four digit office number starting with a 2 is



located in Rayburn. Three digit office numbers are located in Cannon.

- **Senate**
- Senate offices are identified by the building they are in.
 - Russell – SR
 - *Example: SR 216 is on the second floor of Russell.*
 - Dirksen – SD
 - *Example: SD 145 is on the first floor of Dirksen.*
 - Hart – SH
 - *Example: SH 320 is on the third floor of Hart.*

Capitol Tunnels

- **House**
 - Cannon – Take elevators to the basement level. Follow signs pointing to Longworth House Office Building. When you arrive at security, turn left and proceed through the doors to Longworth. Do not go through Security as you must have a congressional staffer with you to go to the Capitol.
 - There are two tunnels connecting Cannon and Longworth, one in the northwest part of the building and one in the southwest corner of the building. The southwest tunnel is currently closed as part of a major 10-year renovation of the Cannon House Office Building.
 - Longworth – Take elevators to the basement level and follow signs to Cannon or Rayburn. To go to Rayburn, you must take the escalator down to the Rayburn sub-basement.
 - Rayburn – Take elevators to the sub-basement, follow signs to Capitol Subway and/or Longworth House Office Building. You must take the escalators up to the Longworth basement.
- **Senate**
 - Russell – Take elevators to the basement level and follow the signs to the Dirksen Senate Office Building.
 - Dirksen and Hart – These buildings are connected on every floor from the first to the sixth via corridors connecting the building in the northeast and southeast corners (Dirksen) and in the northwest and southwest corners (Hart). (We do not recommend taking the basement tunnels between Hart and Dirksen).
- **Senate to House/House to Senate**
 - There are tunnels connecting the Senate and House Office Buildings. However, these tunnels are closed to the general public unless they are accompanied by a Member of Congress or congressional staff.
 - If you are travelling from House to Senate, you will have to go through security regardless of your use of the cross-Capitol tunnels.

Elevators

- Certain elevators are reserved for congressional use only. In the House, most elevators



are freely available to the public unless it is during a recorded vote at which time elevators are reserved for Members. In the Senate, a portion of elevators are always reserved for Members.

- Always look at the digital display above the elevator or for any signage around the elevators to determine if the elevator is reserved.
- Listening for the Capitol bells can also be helpful in determining when elevators will be reserved for Members.

Capitol Bells

- **House**
 - One Long Ring: Short Quorum Call
 - Two Rings: Votes
 - Three Rings: 15-minute Quorum Calls
 - Four Rings: Adjournment
 - Five Rings: 5-minute Votes
 - Six Rings: Recess
 - Twelve Rings: Civil Defense Warning (meet at pre-determined emergency meeting locations if situation permits)
- **Senate**
 - One Long Ring: Senate is Convening
 - One Ring: Yeas and Nays
 - Two Rings: Quorum Call
 - Three Rings: Call of Absentees
 - Four Rings: Adjournment or Recess. End of Daily Session
 - Five Rings: 7 ½ Minutes Remaining on Yea and Nay Vote.
 - Six Rings: Morning Business Concluded.

NOTE: If you are having trouble navigating through tunnels or finding the tunnel, look for signs, ask a capitol police officer or staffer, or ask at your current meeting how to get to the next office.