

*Your Guide
to the*
ILLINOIS SENATE





Welcome to the Illinois Senate

Dear Friend:

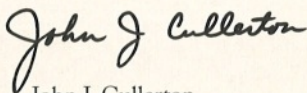
On behalf of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, welcome to your State Capitol and the Illinois Senate. In January 2009, I was elected to lead our majority party and to serve as the Senate President, presiding over the upper Chamber of the General Assembly.

In this handbook, you will find current and historical information about the State Senate and its members who are elected from 59 districts across the State. Regardless of our party affiliation or the region of the state from which we come, all members of the Senate work hard to represent the diverse needs of our communities.

During your visit to Springfield, I hope you will take time to tour our State Capitol and visit your state senator's Springfield office. Additionally, there are many historical sites that have been important to our state and our nation. Visiting these sites will give you the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of many of Illinois' great leaders to see how their impact has shaped our lives.

Thank you for visiting Springfield, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Cullerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John J. Cullerton
Illinois Senate President



Dear Friend:

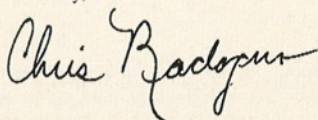
As the elected Leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, I am proud to welcome you to the Illinois Senate and our State Capitol. It is in this historic building that we work with our Democratic colleagues to enact the laws that govern Illinois.

Each senator in Illinois has an office here in the Capitol to serve the approximately 220,000 citizens of his or her district. I hope you have the time to visit the office of your state senator and share your thoughts on the issues of the day. Your input is a vital component of our legislative process.

To see our democracy at work, be sure to visit the committee rooms where public testimony is heard on pending legislation. In the restored Senate Chambers, you may observe the 59 elected senators debate legislation before their votes are cast.

Thank you for visiting the Illinois Senate. I hope you find your visit informative, enjoyable and rich in history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Radogno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Radogno" clearly legible.

Christine Radogno
Senate Republican Leader



About the Senate

The legislative power of the state of Illinois is vested in the General Assembly — a 59-member Senate and a 118-member House of Representatives. Its principal function is to enact the laws of our state, determine the state budget and consider proposed amendments to the Illinois and U.S. constitutions.

Representatives serve two-year terms. Your senators are elected to two- or four-year terms, which are staggered over a 10-year period.

The General Assembly convenes each year on the second Wednesday in January. In odd-numbered years, the first order of business is the election of the Senate President and the appointment of committee chairmen and members.

The Senate has several standing committees that concentrate on specific subject areas, such as education, agriculture and transportation. Committee members frequently have experience or expertise in that subject area.

Senate committees serve as the screening process for legislation introduced by members. Usually, only those bills approved by a Senate committee can be considered by the entire membership.

Bills may originate in either the House or the Senate and must be passed by a majority of all elected members before being sent to the governor. In recent years, as many as 5,000 bills have been introduced in a legislative session. On the average, about 10 percent to 15 percent of these are enacted into law.

Each day's session is called to order by the Senate President. A daily printed calendar outlines which bills will be considered and where the bills are in the legislative process. Before a vote is taken, each bill is debated by the members, whose opinions reflect their political viewpoints and the geographic regions they represent.

In addition to their duties in Springfield, legislators spend a great deal of time in their districts meeting with constituents, local officials, organizations and businesses to help assess the local priorities and agenda.

Senators have district offices to serve constituents — many of whom visit, write and telephone to voice their opinions on the wide variety of issues considered in Springfield. It's this communication that helps lawmakers decide how to vote on legislation in the Capitol.

Senate Chambers

The Illinois legislature first convened in this Capitol building in 1877. While parts of the Senate chamber have changed over time, the podium for the presiding officer, space for the administrative officers of the Senate and some type of seating for each senator has remained virtually the same.

1910

1969



Current

Senate Chambers

The 2001-2006 Renovation

In 2001, the ceiling of the Senate Chamber began to crack. As pieces began to fall to the floor, the final months of the 2001 Session were conducted with protective netting so that members would not be hit with falling plaster. That summer, the Senate took on the task of restoring the Senate ceiling.

The ceiling in the Senate Chamber today is decoratively painted plaster molding (also called *Carton-pierre*, which is French for 'stone carton' and is a term used for papier mâché decorated to resemble stone, wood, or metal, and used as ornamentation). This process was popular in France in the 1860s and 1870s. The original ceiling had a lay light with a skylight above. In the 1930s the lay light was closed and infilled with plaster. There are many who would like to see the ceiling again include a lay light, and design for such a project is under consideration.

Renovation of the Senate Chamber continued in June 2006, after adjournment of the spring session. The Senate Chamber was stripped down for a complete renovation of the podium, members' desks, walls and the galleries. The goal was to renovate the Chamber back to the look and feel of the 1880s.



Desks

The senators' desks are roll-tops made of mahogany with a walnut burl. There are 66 desks connected in semi-circled rows facing the President's podium and separated by the main aisle. Typically, the Republican Party members sit to the President's left and the Democrats to the right. When one party has more members than seats on one side of the aisle, some members of that party will sit on the other party's side.

The Senate chose to install roll-top desks for state senators during the renovation, which are reminiscent of the



roll-tops that first appeared in the Senate around 1911 – believed to be the first replacement to the original desks. Today, the roll-tops cover the senators' voting boxes, laptop computers and personal papers. The senators' voting boxes are linked to the President's podium and voting board to ensure that senators have the ability to speak on a measure and that their vote is recorded. The laptop provides the senator with up-to-date information on each legislative matter being debated along with their staff's analyses and any notes they might have made.

Senate Chambers

Podium

The President's podium in the Senate consists of the upper podium used by the President or presiding officer and the lower podium, which is used by the Secretary of the Senate and contains space for individuals who perform the administrative functions of the body. The current podium is mahogany with a walnut burl. Approximately 25 percent of the podium's wood is original to the 1870s. As part of the renovation, podium lamps (or torchiers), which are reproductions of the originals, were added to the upper podium. Also original to the chamber are all the wood pediments and columns behind the podium.

From the upper podium, the President or presiding officer sits above the body to preside over the legislative process. Since the 1990s, the Senate Chamber has received many technological advances. The podium contains a viewing screen so the presiding officer can see information on legislative matters being presented, which senator may be seeking to speak, and, once a vote has been taken, the presiding officer can see the roll call and vote totals. The presiding officer also controls the three cameras in the Chamber that are connected electronically to a sound system, which can be heard throughout parts of the Capitol and on the internet. Live feed of the Senate when it is in session is provided through the General Assembly website, www.ilga.gov.



Senate Chambers

Chamber Video Displays

There are two video displays in the Senate Chamber, each angled to ensure maximum visibility for senators and staff from all areas of the Senate floor. Each display is approximately 8x10 feet and is made up of 35 LED displays. The top portion of the display area allows either the camera feed of live session action or a still image to be shown. The center is for the text of the current legislative matter or for a message. The bottom portion features an alphabetical list of the 59 senators. During a vote, lights appear next to each senator's name indicating the manner in which they voted.



Chandeliers and Lighting

The chandeliers in the Chamber are original to the Capitol. They are brass with crystal from the Czech Republic. Originally burning gas, they were converted to electric in the early 1920s.

The wall sconces, which at one time were completely removed from the Chamber, were reproduced from photographs to mimic original lighting. And, as mentioned previously, the lamps on the President's podium were reproduced from photographs to mimic original podium torchiers.



Senate Chambers

Chamber Walls

The side walls of the Senate divide the working Chamber (also referred to as “the floor”) from the side aisles that were created to provide access for guests and for groups and individuals who may wish to speak to a senator on an issue before they go onto the Senate floor.

As part of the renovation, double-etched glass was added to the side walls to allow natural light in the Chamber. The glass replaced paneled wood walls, which were constructed during a major renovation in the 1970s. Some suggest that paneled wood walls gave the Chamber a darker, more somber feel. There is photographic evidence of a time when there were no side walls. Instead, brass rails separated senators from visitors and lobbyists (as seen in the 1944 photo above), similar to the brass rails found outside the front door of the Senate Chamber. The Senate has brass rail remnants in storage.

1944



The front and back walls of the Chamber were restored to stencils from the 1880s found during the renovation of the Chamber. Initially, a fabric cover had been picked to replace wood paneling from the 1970s, but during demolition, once the wood panels and wainscot were removed, workers discovered two identical stencils — star shapes with gold leaf accents that had been lost to history. Paint experts identified two color palettes and the decision was made to use the oldest in restoring those areas.

Senate Chambers

Senate Galleries

The Senate Chamber has two galleries for guests to view the actions of the Senate. The gallery behind the President's podium is referred to as the President's Gallery. It seats 76 people comfortably. The President's Gallery is home to the portraits of the six immediate past Senate Presidents. They are Senator Cecil A. Partee (President Pro Tempore 1971-72, President 1975-76), Senator William C. Harris (1973-74), Senator Thomas C. Hynes (1977-78), Senator Philip J. Rock (1979-1992), Senator James "Pate" Philip (1993-2002) and Senator Emil Jones Jr. (2003-2008).



The Visitors Gallery is accessible through the rotunda and seats 72 visitors. The cast iron railings in the Visitors Gallery are original to the Chamber. The open area they encase is a viewing area for disabled visitors and is also the only place in the Chamber where the press are allowed, with permission from the Senate, to film using video cameras.



Senate Chambers

Press Boxes

The enclosed seating on each side of the President's podium are press boxes and are used by members of the press while the Senate is in session. To have access to the press boxes, the press must have identification issued by the Senate President's Office and permission from the Illinois Legislative Correspondents' Association.



Other Interesting Facts

The carpet in the Chamber, galleries and hallways is hand-sewn Wilton wool carpet. The pattern was specially designed for the Senate using photos and other historical information concerning the colors and designs that would have been used in the late 1800s.

The back of the Chamber contains a women's restroom, a men's restroom and two phone rooms, one on each side of the aisle. There are booths in each of the phone rooms for senators to speak privately on the telephone provided or on personal cell phones. On most session days, senators can also find beverages and snacks in the phone rooms. Interestingly enough, the original Senate Chamber did not have a women's restroom. Women senators had to leave the Chamber to find a restroom.



Directly behind the President's chair at the upper podium is a room called the Ante Room. It is a small conference room used primarily by the Senate Committee on Assignments. It is also used to house guests of the Chamber while they await introduction.





Senate Committee Room 212

1908



Outside of the Chambers, one of the most impressive rooms in the Capitol is Senate Committee Room 212. This was the home of the Illinois Supreme Court until 1908, when the Court moved to its present-day location. Senate Committee Room 212 is the largest of the Senate's committee rooms.

The room was restored in 2001 to return the historic colors and decorative finishes of the room to the original decorative scheme of the 1870s. As the Supreme Court was the original user of the room, much of the art in the room symbolizes the Court and justice. Tables for witnesses and the press — and chairs for senators and the public — were replaced in 2014. The previous chairs had been in use since 1976.

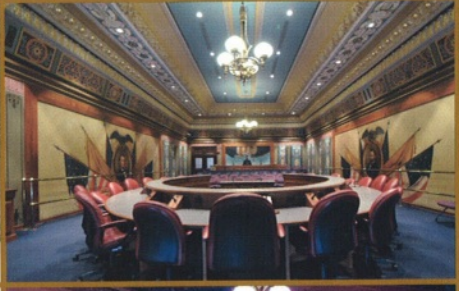
Today, Room 212 is home to a number of Senate committees and is often used for public ceremonies.



Senate Committee Room 400



1890s to 1910s
State Historical Library
rooms 300 and 400



1985

Senate Committee Room 400 is often referred to as the “lost” room because for more than 40 years, the space was sealed off from its floor below.

When the Capitol first opened, this area was the top portion of a two-story room that housed the State Historical Library, Art Gallery and then became Memorial Hall, where murals were painted high on the walls so they could be seen above flag cases showcasing many Illinois historical battle flags and banners. At some point in the 1930s, the decision was made to lower the ceiling of the third-floor room which, in effect, caused the top half of the room to become “lost”. It was not until the early 1970s that workers, working above the ceiling of the third-floor room, noticed the ornate murals. The decision was made to construct an actual floor above the lowered third-floor ceiling and create an opening on the fourth floor that became the entrance for a Senate committee room.

Senate Committee Room 400 contains a mural of a Union soldier on the west wall, Abraham Lincoln on the south wall and Ulysses S. Grant on the north wall.

In 2004, the ceilings and remaining walls were returned to their 1880s appearance.



Senate Committee Room 409



The newest Senate committee room is Room 409. First used as a hearing room in 2007, the space had served a number of uses including offices for senators, Senate staff and the Senate Bill Room. Senate Committee Room 409 now houses portraits of former lieutenant governors and Presidents Pro Tempore. Prior to the 1970 Constitution, lieutenant governors served as the President of the Senate, although they only voted when there was a tie. The Presidents Pro Tempore were members of the Senate, typically the Majority Leader, who were elected by senators to the position.

The lieutenant governor portraits start on the south wall and, in order moving around the room and ending on the north wall and the windows, are as follows:

W.A. Northgott	(1897-1905)
Lawrence Y. Sherman	(1905-1909)
John G. Oglesby	(1909-1913, 1917-1921)
Barrett O'Hara	(1913-1917)
Fred Sterling	(1921-1933)
Thomas F. Donovan	(1933-1937)
John Stelle	(1937-1940)
Hugh W. Cross	(1941-1949)
John Chapman	(1953-1961)
Samuel Shapiro	(1961-1968)
Paul Simon	(1969-1973)



The Presidents Pro Tempore are on the east wall over the Senator's dais and, from left to right, are as follows:

Arnold P. Benson	(1941-1944)
Walker Butler	(1953-1954)
W. Russell Arrington	(1965-1970)
Arthur J. Bidwell	(1955-1964)
Edward E. Laughlin	(1945-1948)
Richey V. Graham Sr.	(1933-1937)



West Wing Renovation

The Illinois State Capitol, designed by Alfred Henry Piquenard and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a blending of 18th century baroque and 19th century classical styles of architecture on the exterior and French Renaissance style on the interior. All three styles are well-known for their high level of ornamentation and in public buildings especially, a sense of monumentality and permanence. The Illinois State Capitol is no exception. When originally constructed between 1868 and 1887, and standing 361 feet above the earth, clad in limestone, fit with marble, decorative plaster and ornamental lighting, the Capitol was like no other building around it in terms of mass, style, grandeur and perpetuity. This is still true today. As part of a long-term effort to upgrade the ancient infrastructure and systems in the Capitol that was begun in 2006 with the renovation of the House and Senate Chambers, the west wing of the building was renovated starting in 2012. The project was completed in 2013 and overseen by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

The decision to renovate the west wing of the Capitol presented a unique set of challenges and balances. The renovation was undertaken mainly as a life-safety, Americans with Disabilities Act and infrastructure upgrade project to correct dire deficiencies in these areas. To accomplish this, the wing was vacated to facilitate the work. It was decided to bring the wing back to what is termed a "Period of Significance." The Period of Significance for the building, which is the timeframe of the original design and renovations to the design done with the original design intent, is between 1868 and 1908.

The west wing of the Capitol includes several areas utilized by the Senate. Offices on the first, second, third and fourth floors house more than a third of the Senate members as well as their assistants and several staff members. Several aspects were involved as the Architect of the Capitol pursued bringing the building back to a Period of Significance.

Exterior Doors

When originally designed, the main entrance to the Capitol was from the east through a set of 37 steps up to the second floor of the building. These were removed before the building was officially opened when architect W.W. Boyington

converted the basement into the first floor. While the first-floor doors were oak on the outside and black walnut on the inside, they were heavily carved with bronze ornamentation. Bronze is a metal made primarily of copper, and as the western exposure and elements took their toll on the doors, they simply became inoperable and were replaced with much simpler, non-historic doors. In this renovation, designers took their cue from the bronze ornamentation on the original doors and clad a new wood door in copper, which should protect it for well over a century. Aside from a historic standpoint, copper was chosen for its longevity, natural beauty and its tendency to form a brown patina similar to oil-rubbed bronze, the standard finish for the building.



Mezzanines

Every wing of the Capitol has had mezzanines constructed that were not part of the original design intent of the building's architects and therefore outside of the Period of Significance. Mezzanines were added for the sole purpose of creating more space, but not only did they destroy much of the highly ornate original woodwork around windows and doors, they left a large volume of space bifurcated by their addition. The decision to remove the non-original mezzanine from the west wing was a way to bring the building back within the established timeframe and re-establish the large open space that was lost for decades.

The large open spaces have open-office landscaping (cubicles), which keep the high ceilings and allow more people to enjoy views out of the west-facing (rooms 220, 309, treasurer's office), south-facing (rooms 216, 220) and north-facing (treasurer's office) windows. There was a balcony placed into Room 309 paying tribute to the book stacks of the Illinois State Library when it occupied that space. The balcony contains offices for senators and their assistants.



Woodwork

While the building is constructed primarily of brick and stone, it was wood that gave it a human quality. The woodwork in the Capitol is pervasive – from doors and windows, their frames, the wainscoting, and although lost to time, some of the floors, there is no doubt this was an important material to the architects and the craftsmen who installed it. Highly decorative carvings on doors, door frames and windows frames give the occupant of the Capitol a sense that this place is not just a structure, but a collaboration of craftsman creating a work of art to highlight the talents and skill of the citizens of this state.

Where possible, the original doors were salvaged and refinished. Where the mezzanine had destroyed the upper section of the second story doors and windows, they were re-created to restore their original splendor.



Lighting

The Capitol, having been constructed during a 20-year period, saw a change in the style of light fixtures from floor to floor. Through photographs and catalogs from lighting suppliers of the mid- to late 19th century, the light fixtures in most of the west wing offices were re-created.

The maidens that were designed by A.H. Piquenard for the second-floor grand staircase were brought to the Capitol for installation but were thought too risqué to install in the late 19th century. These original lighting pieces are in Iowa's Capitol (which was designed by the same architect) in a very similar location at the base of its grand stairs. Since their placement in Illinois' Capitol Building was the original intent of the architect, they were molded from the originals and placed in their intended location.





Decorative Painting

One of the first interior indications of the unique nature of the Illinois State Capitol is the decorative painting throughout the building. The walls and ceilings are teeming with highly detailed stenciling, stylized patterns of plants and flowers infused with geometric shapes that add to the richness and complexity of the space and are appropriate to the nature of the building.



The wall and ceiling colors and the decorative painting patterns in the west wing are, for the most part replications of what was original to the building. They were uncovered by artisans and re-created on freshly painted plaster surfaces. Many of the decorative paintings are on canvas. This is a relatively inexpensive way to achieve the desired effect while increasing the accuracy of the patterns and minimizing the impact a potential threat such as a water leak would have by making repairs much simpler. Images below show the uncovering of original colors and patterns and the post-renovation condition.

At the height of the west wing renovation, there were 170 people working onsite, and many more worked offsite to make the parts and pieces being installed.



Find us on the internet:

Illinois General Assembly

www.ilga.gov



Senate Democratic Caucus

www.IllinoisSenateDemocrats.com



Senate Republican Caucus

www.senategop.state.il.us



State of Illinois

www.illinois.gov

State Capitol Visitor Information

All offices in the Capitol are committed to ensuring there are programs and services to meet the needs of people with disabilities when visiting and touring our State Capitol. Below is information regarding Capitol access from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office:

Guided Tours

Reservations: All tours begin at the information desk, located on the first floor of the Capitol rotunda. Groups reserve their tours in advance by calling the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 545-7300. Staff members of the Tour and Convention Bureau are trained to use a relay messenger service for booking tours with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. To access a relay messenger service, please call 711 and then give the operator the phone number for the bureau.

If any member of your group has a disability that might interfere with his or her enjoyment of the tour, please let the convention bureau know when you are making your reservation. The Secretary of State's office, which directs Capitol tours, attempts to accommodate all people or groups with special needs, but cannot guarantee such service without advance notice.

For people with a hearing disability: A printed version of the tour script is available for people with hearing disabilities. The information desk also has two assisted hearing devices available.

For people with a visual disability: A large print version of the tour is available, as is a Braille version. Audiotapes of the tour are also available. Service animals are allowed in the Capitol.

For people with a mobility disability: The information desk has one wheelchair available for use by a person who wishes to tour the Capitol. A wheelchair is also available at the visitor's center, located southwest of the Stratton Building. Individuals who find it difficult to walk or stand for a long period of time should notify their tour guide, so that most of the tour information can be provided while the tour group is seated.

Visiting the Capitol

Entrances: Entrances that are wheelchair accessible may be found on the west side of the Capitol building. Inside, most of the doors leading into rooms or offices in the Capitol are equipped with automatic mechanisms.

Parking: While most of the parking immediately surrounding the Capitol is reserved for employees, parking spaces for persons with disabilities can be found in the Capitol Complex Visitor's Center parking lot, located on Edwards Street west of College Street.

Elevators: All elevators in the Capitol are accessible. Elevators are located in the Capitol rotunda, and also off of the north and south hallways, near the exits. An elevator is also located in the first-floor Senate Democrat office (off of Room 103) which provides access to the mezzanine tier of offices for Democratic senators. In addition, all elevators contain Braille boards.

Information Board: An accessible display board containing brochures and information about the Capitol is located next to the information desk on the first floor of the Capitol, in the rotunda.

Pedestrian Tunnels: Underground pedestrian tunnels connect the Capitol basement to the Stratton, Howlett and Norton (Archives) buildings. There may be times, however, when the tunnels are closed.

Restrooms: Accessible public restrooms are located on the first and second floors on the northwest side of the rotunda. There are also public restrooms in the third floor hallway to the south of the main staircase.

Water Fountains: Accessible drinking fountains may be found on the first, second and third floors, and on the southwest side of the rotunda, in the elevator alcove.

Public TTY Telephone: There is a TTY telephone available to the public on the first floor, just off of the rotunda in the north hallway. Appropriate signage marks the location of the TTY phone.

Service Animals: Service animals are allowed in all of the buildings on the Capitol complex.

Phone Numbers

Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau (for group tour reservations):
(800) 545-7300.

For deaf or hard of hearing visitors, please call through the Illinois Relay System.
Their number is 711. You may also use (800) 526-0857 (voice) or (800) 526-0844 (TTY).

Capitol Information Desk: (217) 782-2099.

