

House Gallery Rules: A Reminder

As a reminder to the public, the galleries are for observing the Legislature's work on behalf of the people of Washington State. Legislators work under a set of rules that allow respectful, courteous debate on sometimes contentious issues. A similar protocol extends to the galleries and committee hearing rooms.

The public is encouraged to visit the Capitol and to watch their lawmakers in action. According to legislative rules adopted by the body as a whole, this observation must be quiet and respectful. These rules prohibit, among other things:

- Signs, banners, placards, or other props that could be construed as an effort to promote demonstrations;
- Audible or visual signals from the gallery to the chamber floor, including whistling, calling, chanting, or waving;
- Animals, other than service animals;
- Applause and/or demonstrations;
- Umbrellas, strollers, camera tripods, sticks, or similar items that could block movement or take up seating space in the gallery;
- Open-carried weapons such as guns, firearms, and blades;
- Food and beverages; and
- Large cases, backpacks and packages.

These rules of decorum are equally enforced on all people in the legislative galleries and committee hearing rooms, just as legislators' rules of conduct are enforced.