



THIRTY-FOURTH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

2025-2026

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES
State Capitol, Rm 216, Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3271

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI
State Capitol, Rm 103, Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-5038

Alaska Legislature Press Pass (ALPP) Rules & Procedures

Background and Eligibility Criteria

Alaska Legislature Uniform Rule 11(d) allows members of the press admittance to the Senate and House chambers. 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. Per Uniform Rule 12, the presiding officer may grant access to chambers and galleries. Historically, the Chairs of the House and Senate Rules Committee (“Rules Chairs”) have been delegated these authorities on behalf of the presiding officer.

There are two primary benefits of an Alaska Legislature Press Pass (ALPP):

1. Access to the House and/or Senate chamber floors, including Joint Sessions; and
2. The opportunity to ask a question during press conferences, at the discretion of the legislator chairing it, or their designee.

Despite the granting of an ALPP, these benefits remain subject to the discretion of the presiding officers and Rules Chairs.

Members of a recognized, published news agency, affiliate, or organization may apply for an ALPP. News mediums may include television, radio, print, or digital. Social media posts may be considered a news medium when the post is made by an ALPP holder (hereinafter referred to as “credentialed individual”) from an account directly affiliated with the employing news organization. Multiple individuals from the same news agency, affiliate, or organization may apply for an ALPP.

Designated Communications Staff of each formally recognized caucus as defined under Uniform Rule 1(e) may also apply for an ALPP. The Rules Chairs may consider issuing an ALPP to other applicants on a case-by-case basis.

Credentialed individuals must adhere to the rules set forth in this document.

The Rules Chairs are delegated the authority to consider and approve ALPPs that allow admittance to the floor of each chamber. The following rules and application have been drafted and agreed upon by both Rules Chairs. The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will distribute these rules and applications to known members of the Alaska press corps and process and print approved ALPPs. The House and Senate Sergeants-at-Arms are tasked with enforcing the Legislature Press Rules.

Questions relating to the Legislature Press Rules may be directed to either or both Rules Chairs.

Process for ALPP Applicants

1. Carefully read the Legislature Press Rules in their entirety.
2. Complete the included application and sign your agreement to comply with these rules.
3. Email the completed application to the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms with a current headshot, or have one taken by LAA Media Services staff (TMLOB Rm 229). The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will distribute your application to the appropriate Capitol staff to start the approval process. *Signatures will be gathered internally, not by the applicant.*
4. Upon approval, the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will notify the applicant when the ALPP may be picked up in the House Chamber. The House Sergeant-at-Arms will physically provide the approved ALPP to the applicant.
5. An ALPP is valid for the duration of the two-year legislature, and any special sessions, subject to the Revocation Policy below. Unless a credentialed individual has changed organizations, they are not required to apply again for the second regular session of the same legislature if the holder is still in compliance with these rules.

ALPP Revocation Policy

The House and Senate Rules Chairs may accredit, revoke, or modify an ALPP if a credentialed individual:

1. Violates a Legislature Press Rule, as provided in this document; and/or
2. Transfers their ALPP to another person not specifically pictured or designated on the pass; and/or
3. Fails to immediately notify the House or Senate Sergeant(s)-at-Arms, or one or both Rules Chairs of a change in employment after issuance of their ALPP.

Legislature Press Rules

Upon signature and submission of the ALPP application, credentialed individuals agree to abide by the following rules while in legislative chambers:

1. Follow the Legislative Council Professional Workplace Conduct Policy (attached).
2. Adhere to chamber policies adopted by the presiding officers or rules chairs.
3. Respect the dignity of the legislative chambers and the Capitol Complex.
4. Maintain professional decorum while on Capitol Complex property.
5. May not engage in lobbying or take action, to influence or direct legislative, executive, or judicial actions. This prohibition does not apply to testimony at a public hearing on a topic in which the credentialed individual has recognizable and reasonable expertise.
6. While on Capitol Complex property, members of the press must wear a clearly visible and valid ALPP at all times.
7. Credentialed individuals are permitted on the floor following the convening bells and until adjournment.
8. Shall immediately exit the chamber should the body go into recess and may return only after the convening bells have rung for the body to reconvene.
9. 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.

10. Credentialed individuals may use the tables at the rear of the chambers, located in front of each gallery on the chamber floor. These tables are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Do not occupy seats reserved for Pages.
11. Credentialed individuals may only use the side aisles to take pictures inside the chambers. They may not walk in front of the front row of desks, nor use the middle aisle.
12. Use of flash photography is prohibited inside the chambers.
13. Do not take photographs of material on desks or documents between the entry doors of the chambers.
14. Do not touch the voting boards or block their view. Please work with the Sergeant-at-Arms to find a standing space that least impedes view of the board.
15. Credentialed individuals may not approach legislators on the floor. Conversations must be initiated by legislators. Credentialed individuals may only approach legislators beyond the outer doors of the chamber.
16. 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.
17. Credentialed individuals may use computers and smart devices inside the chamber for press-related writing, reporting, texting, and/or social media communications. Devices must always be on silent mode. Headphones are required when monitoring video while inside the chamber.
18. Audio recording is only permitted when the body is in session.
19. Eavesdropping is prohibited and audio recording or reporting of overheard private conversations is not allowed.
20. No recorded interviews are permitted inside the chamber.
21. In case of an emergency within the Capitol Complex, credentialed individuals must conduct themselves in an unobtrusive manner that does not obstruct pathways nor increase risk of injury or confusion. Credentialed individuals will follow all directions given by security personnel, first responders, Rules Committee and/or Floor Staff, including instructions to exit the area. Any violation of this rule may result in immediate ALPP revocation.
22. Credentialed individuals will be required to abide by decorum and dress code determined by the respective Rules Chairs for each chamber.
23. Amendments offered on the floor will be provided to credentialed individuals and the public only after they have been moved by the sponsor. The Floor Staff will provide copies to those seated at the press tables.
24. Voting results can be obtained in the office of the Chief Clerk or Senate Secretary shortly after the vote has taken place.
25. No food is permitted in the chamber and beverages must be poured into a cup or glass without large logos or advertisements.
26. Credentialed members of the press are not permitted in the Floor Staff rooms outside the chamber. They are for legislative employees and legislators only.
27. Inside the chambers, Pages are responsible for enforcing these rules at the direction of the Sergeants-at-Arms.