



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

DRESS CODES
(as of October 2021)

Shown below are examples of rules or policies (or excerpts thereof) that require appropriate attire on the chamber floor.

Alabama Senate

Senate Rule 37. ... (b) No member of the Senate or any person who has privileges of the floor, except television cameramen, shall be admitted upon the floor of the Senate while the Senate is in session, unless properly attired.

Minimum standards of dress in the Senate Chamber and in committee meetings while in session shall consist of the wearing of a coat and tie by males and the wearing of a suitable dress or an appropriate blouse and skirt or pants suit by females.

Minimum attire for pages shall be the same as for members.

Whenever a special circumstance, such as injury, prevents a Member from meeting the dress requirements hereinabove cited, such Member shall, upon motion adopted by a majority of the Senators present and voting, be excused from the requirements of this Rule.

Whenever special circumstances arise relating to staff, the press and any others entitled to the floor, the Secretary shall decide whether such person shall be excused from the requirements of this Rule.

Alabama House

House Rule 42. (a) During House sessions and committee meetings during legislative weeks, any person having privileges of the floor shall dress in a suitable manner. Men shall wear a coat and tie and women shall wear a dress, or skirt or pants with a blouse and jacket.

(b) The Speaker may authorize exceptions to this rule based on health or religious reasons, and the clerk may authorize exceptions for television camera operators and sound technicians.

(c) Minimum standards of dress for members shall be enforced by the Speaker and minimum standards for all other individuals shall be enforced by the Clerk.

California Senate

Senate Rule 55. ... (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, a person may not be permitted on the Floor of the Senate while it is in session unless the person is wearing formal business attire. Accredited camerapersons, sound technicians, and photographers are exempt from this requirement. Floor of the Senate, for this purpose, has the same meaning set forth in subdivision (f).

California Assembly

House Rule 118.1. Floor Attire. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, Members of the Legislature, officers or employees of the Legislature, accredited members of the press, or any other persons may be restricted from admission to the floor of the Assembly during any session if they are inappropriately attired. The Committee on Rules may, as necessary, adopt policies to implement this rule.

Colorado House

House Rule 23. ... (g) Whenever the House is conducting business in the House chambers, gentlemen members shall be required to wear a suit coat or sport coat. The requirement to wear a suit coat or sport coat may be suspended by the Chair when the House is sitting as a committee of the whole or by the Speaker when the Speaker deems suspension appropriate. The majority party leader shall develop guidelines for proper dress for members and staff attending to legislative business in the House chambers and assure that such guidelines are communicated to the members and staff.

Delaware House

House Rule 53. Media ... (b) Credentialed and non-credentialed members of the media shall abide by the following rules:
(1) All credentialed and non-credentialed members of the media (reporters, photographers and videographers) should dress in business casual attire whenever they enter the House Chamber. ...

Florida Senate

Senate Rule 10.4. Attire. All persons on the main floor of the Senate Chamber and in the gallery (with the exception of visitors in that portion of the gallery set aside for the general public) shall wear appropriate business attire at all times while the Senate is sitting.

Florida House

House Rule 8.1. (f) SESSION ATTIRE. When the House is in session, all persons in the Chamber shall be dressed in proper business attire.

Georgia Senate

Senate Rule 9-1.1. Senatorial Conduct. When the Senate is in session, Senators shall conduct themselves at all times with dignity and in a manner to insure decorum in the deliberations of the body and shall be called to order by the President for activities to the contrary, including unnecessary conversation which is disruptive to the business of the session and inappropriate dress.

Senate Rule 9-1.4. ... (d) All persons entering the Senate chamber shall be dressed in attire appropriate to the Senate. No person shall be admitted on the floor of the Senate bearing a placard, display, banner, or sign unless authorized by the President. All buttons, signs, or articles of clothing that promote a candidate for public office are prohibited.

Georgia House

House Rule 1.4. Members shall, at all times, observe appropriate attire on the floor of the House, in the gallery, and in the lobbies, ante rooms, and halls adjacent to the House. Appropriate attire for members shall be coat and tie for male members and dignified dress for female members.

Hawaii House

House Rule 10. Officers and Employees: Floor Session Attire. While present on the floor of the House Chamber, each member shall be dressed in court attire; provided that on Fridays, any member may dress in aloha attire. "Court attire" means coat and tie for men and jackets for women.

Idaho House

House Rule 40. ... (2) Persons in the Chamber shall wear proper attire to maintain decorum of the House.

Illinois Senate

Senate Rule 4-3. Entitled to Floor. (a) ... No person is entitled to the floor unless appropriately attired.

Illinois House

House Rule 30. Access to the House Floor. (a) ... No person is entitled to the floor unless appropriately attired. ...

Iowa Senate

Senate Decorum Rule 3. DRESS. Jeans and/or t-shirts are not permitted except for Property Management personnel performing their duties and authorized press photographers who are moving equipment through the chamber to the back stairway. All persons with access to the Senate chamber pursuant to section 1 shall, on all legislative days, wear appropriate business attire, e.g., no denim, tank tops, halter tops, or shorts shall be worn. Males must wear a coat and tie at all times when the Senate is in session, except for Property Management personnel and press photographers moving through the chamber.

Iowa House

House Rule 10. Recognition and Decorum in Debate. A member who wishes to speak in debate shall be appropriately attired, with male members wearing coat or tie. ...

Kansas Senate

Senate Rule 79. Decorum. During the time the Senate is in session professional dress is required on the floor of the Senate.

Louisiana House

House Rule 5.8. Attire for members. A. While in the House Chamber when the House is in session or in a House committee room while participating in a meeting of a legislative committee during a legislative session, male members shall wear a coat, tie, and slacks or suit and female members shall wear a business dress or suit or pantsuit.

B. During the interim, the chairman of each committee and subcommittee may determine the appropriate attire for members in attendance at interim meetings of the committee or subcommittee. If the chairman of a committee or subcommittee determines that certain attire will be required for attendance at an interim meeting of the committee or subcommittee, the chairman shall give each member of the committee or subcommittee adequate notice of such requirement.

Massachusetts House

House Rule 2. ... While in the House Chamber, members, staff and guests shall be required to dress in proper and appropriate attire and be courteous and professional when using electronic devices. ...

Michigan House

House Rule 3. Bar of the House. ... (4) All persons within the bar of the House shall be in acceptable business attire.

Mississippi Senate

Senate Rule 35A. Whenever a Senator is on the floor of the Senate while the Senate is in session, each male Senator shall wear a coat and necktie, and each female Senator shall wear appropriate attire. ...

Mississippi House

House Rule 18A. Whenever a member is on the floor of the House while the House is in session, each male member of the House shall wear a coat and necktie, except when seated, and each female member of the House shall wear appropriate attire. No visitor or guest on the House floor shall be required to comply with this rule.

Missouri House

House Rule 98. Dress Code. At all times when the House is seated, proper attire for gentlemen shall be business attire, including coat, tie, dress trousers, and dress shoes or boots. Proper attire for women shall be dresses or skirts or slacks worn with a blazer or sweater and appropriate dress shoes or boots. This rule shall apply to all members and staff on the floor of the House and lower gallery.

Montana House

House Resolution 5 <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HR0005.pdf>

New Mexico Senate

Senate Rule 7-18. Members of the senate shall dress in business attire befitting the decorum of the senate and the wearing of bolo ties shall be permitted. All persons permitted access to the floor of the senate shall be held to the same standard.

New Mexico House

House Rule 7-18. Members of the house of representatives shall dress in business attire befitting the decorum of the house and the wearing of bolo ties shall be permitted. All persons permitted access to the floor of the house shall be held to the same standard.

North Carolina Senate

Senate Rule 17. (a) Male Senators and male visitors shall not wear any head covering in the Senate Chamber while the Senate is in session, unless his religion requires his head to be covered. All persons on the Senate floor while the Senate is in session shall be dressed in business attire, including coat and tie for men. ...

North Carolina House

House Rule 12. ... (h) Members shall observe appropriate attire: coat and tie for male members and dignified dress for female members. ...

Oklahoma Senate

Senate Rule 5-5. A. On the floor during session, appropriate business professional attire, including a suit jacket/blazer, shall be worn by all members of the Senate and other persons granted privileges of the floor, unless otherwise authorized by the President Pro Tempore or Majority Floor Leader. Male members shall wear a tie. Jeans are not considered appropriate business professional attire. ...

Oklahoma House

House Rule 4.4. ... (e) All members shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming a member of the House of Representatives. When the House is in session all members shall, while in the Chamber or Gallery, be appropriately dressed. Members shall wear appropriate professional business attire; male members shall wear suitcoats, slacks, and ties. No member shall wear jeans, denim pants, or non-religious head coverings, or hats in the House Chamber while the House is in session.
...

Oregon Senate

Rule 15.05. ... (7) To maintain professionalism in the legislative process, dress code policies may be established for positions that support decorum and protocol of the Senate. ...

Oregon House

House Rule 6.01. Decorum During Session and Committee Proceedings. ... (2) To maintain professionalism and safety in the legislative process, members and employees should dress according to standards of contemporary business attire and shall wear a covering over their nose and mouth (i.e. a facemask) at all times while in the Capitol except when they are alone in their office. Members on the floor within six feet of any other member who has been recognized to speak should move away from the speaking member, maintaining at least six feet of distance while the member is addressing the body

Pennsylvania Senate

Senate Rule 10. ... (k) Proper attire.--Members and staff with privilege of the floor during Senate sessions shall not dress in a manner offensive to the decorum of the Senate but shall be dressed in professional attire, including a coat, tie and trousers or slacks for men, and appropriate dignified dress for women

Rhode Island Senate

Senate Rule 10.10. ... While in the senate chamber, members and staff shall be required to dress in proper and appropriate attire, such as blouses, dress slacks and collared shirts with accompanying jacket.

Rhode Island House

House Rule 38. a. ... No person on the floor of the chamber shall dress in a manner offensive to the decorum of the House..
...

South Carolina House

House Rule 3.12. Members and employees of the House, other than pages, shall observe appropriate and dignified attire which means coat, trousers, shirt and tie for males and dress, skirt, slacks and blouse, or pants suits for females, unless otherwise excused by the Speaker in his sole discretion.

Texas Senate

Senate Rule 3.01. While the Senate is actually in session, no male Senator or Representative or any other male person shall come on the floor of the Senate without wearing a coat and tie. The Sergeant-at-Arms and doorkeepers are instructed to strictly enforce this rule, and only the President of the Senate may suspend the rule as to any person or to all persons, and that action to be taken in writing to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Texas House

House Rule 5, Section 19. Proper Decorum — No person shall be admitted to, or allowed to remain in, the house chamber while the house is in session unless properly attired, and all gentlemen shall wear a coat and tie. ...

West Virginia Senate

Senate Rule 38c. Proper business dress attire shall be worn by all those admitted to the floor of the Chamber while the Senate is in session, which includes a coat and tie for men.

West Virginia House

House Rule 136b. No member of the House or any person who has privileges of the floor, except pages, individuals authorized to be present for special ceremonies, television camera operators, media photographers, sound technicians and maintenance personnel, shall be admitted to the floor of the House while the House is in session unless properly attired. Minimum standards of dress shall consist of the wearing of a coat and tie and dress pants by males and the wearing of a suitable dress or an appropriate blouse and skirt or pants suit by females. Jeans or shorts shall not constitute proper attire

Wisconsin Senate

Senate Rule 8. 1) Members, officers, and employees shall wear appropriate attire while the senate is sitting in session. Appropriate attire for men includes the wearing of a coat. Appropriate attire for men and women does not include denim jeans. ...

Wisconsin Assembly

Assembly Rule 26. ... (9) While the assembly is in session, on the assembly floor in the rectangular area bounded on 4 corners by the pillars in the front and back of the chamber, members and other individuals should dress appropriately, which has traditionally been considered to include a coat and tie for men and appropriate attire for women. In this area, no member or other individual may wear an overcoat or hat. The presiding officer may exempt individuals, other than members, from the requirements of this subsection when appropriate.

Wyoming Legislature

<https://wyoleg.gov/leginfo/POLICIES/MCouncil/MCpolicy07.pdf>

Management Council Policy 12-03

Subject: Dress Code in the Chambers During Session

(Source Notes: MC Minutes 01/20/12; MC Minutes 12/19/17)

Members of the Wyoming Legislature are required to dress in formal business attire during the session. Members should comport themselves in a manner that respects the legislative institution and that includes the formality of dress expected in the chamber.

1. Business formal dress is expected on the chamber floor during legislative sessions.
2. "Business formal" for men is defined as a suit, or dress slacks, jacket, tie, dress shirt and dress shoes or dress boots. Boots must be polished.
 - (a) Bolo ties are acceptable forms of neckwear, but the bolo must be worn tight with the top button of a collared shirt buttoned.
3. "Business formal" for women is defined as a suit or dress slacks, skirt, jacket, and dress blouse or suit-like dress and appropriate shoes (flip flops, tennis shoes, and open-toe sandals are not considered appropriate).
 - (a) Sleeveless dresses and knit dresses are acceptable if a jacket is worn over them.
 - (b) Women should be sensitive to skirt lengths and necklines.
4. Jeans or denim material, including colored denim, is not allowed. Fleece and jersey (sweatshirt) material are not considered "business formal."
5. Name badges shall be worn at all times by members, legislative staff, interns and aides on the floor while the bodies are gavelled into session.
6. Leadership of the House and Senate are responsible for ensuring members are dressed in professional attire and will notify members who may not meet the dress code.
7. Legislative staff, members of the media, interns and aides must also abide by this policy if on the floor while the bodies are gavelled into session.