

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE GUIDE



Every action you take while advocating for your community matters, and sometimes we have an opportunity to make a bigger impact through attending proceedings or testifying at the SC State House.

We know taking action on issues that matter deeply to you and happen in an unfamiliar setting can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Knowledge is power, so we created this guide to help you get more familiar with our State House and more comfortable with attending or testifying before a committee.

Remember: speaking up is an act of courage, you have a right to hold legislators accountable, and you belong at the State House.

## STATE HOUSE BASICS

The Main Lobby of the State House is located on the second floor of the State House. The House and Senate Chambers open off the Lobby.

The State Senate is composed of 46 members elected to four-year terms. Their offices are located in The Gressette Building.

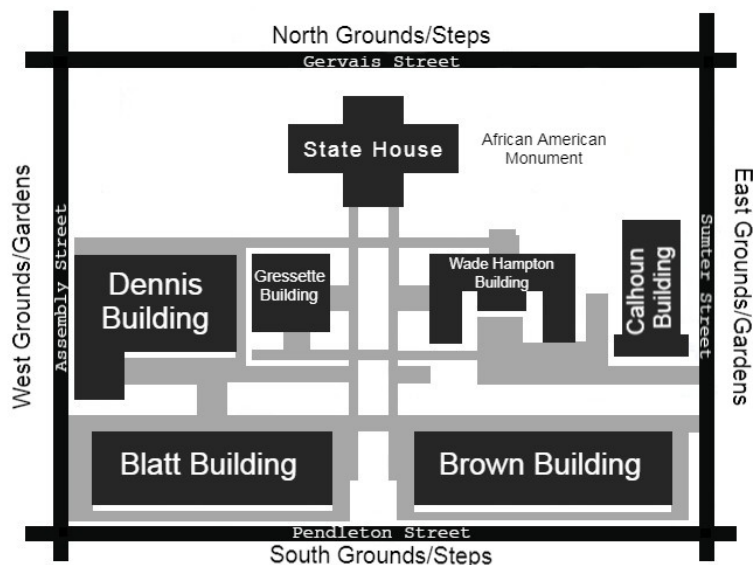
The State House of Representatives is composed of 124 members elected to two-year terms. Their offices are located in The Blatt Building.

1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 734-2430

Building Hours: 9AM - 5PM

[www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov)



**ACLU**  
South Carolina

[www.aclusc.org](http://www.aclusc.org)  
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(803) 828-3161



## TRAVEL INFO

### [Website and Driving Directions](#)

#### **Parking:**

There is no dedicated parking for visitors to the SC State House. Metered street parking is available on all streets around the State House and there is also a parking lot at 1110 Lady Street.

### [Restaurants Near State House](#)

### [Hotels Near State House](#)

## TOOLS AND RESOURCES

### [Find Your Legislator](#)

### [Contact Your Legislator](#)

### [Legislation Search by Bill Number](#)

### [Legislation Search by Topic](#)

### [Senate Live Broadcast](#)

### [House of Representatives Live Broadcast](#)

## TESTIMONY TIPS

Follow us on social media and/ or join our mailing list so we can keep you updated on action alerts. Opportunities to testify can come up quickly and the rules, times, locations, and specifics can vary based on several factors. We are monitoring our legislative priorities and will provide you with all the info you will need to show up and be heard.

Plan your remarks to last 2-3 minutes, and use the outline above to help structure your comments.

If you're planning to testify as part of an ACLU call to action, you won't be alone! Members of our team attend the hearings too, and you can always contact Josh Malkin at [jmalkin@aclusc.org](mailto:jmalkin@aclusc.org) with any onsite logistical questions.

## MAKING YOURSELF HEARD

**It's helpful to structure your testimony, whether oral or written, like this:**

Greet the Committee, thank them for the opportunity to testify.

Introduce yourself.

Clearly state your position, and what you want legislators to do (vote for/ vote against/ amend a bill).

Share your story. Explain why this bill matters to you and affects you personally.

Thank the committee again.

**For calls and emails, remember:**

Your first contact may be with Legislative Staff. Be respectful and don't berate them or take your frustration out on them.

Stick to one issue and call to action per call/letter/email.

Be clear and concise, and avoid jargon.