



**testifying**



**how can I get involved?**



Texas Civil Rights Project



# LEGE 101 TRAINING



**whats a bill?**



**where do I park?**



# WHO WE ARE

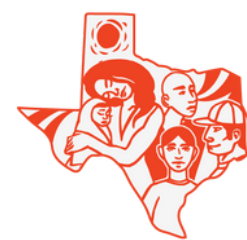
## VOTING RIGHTS



## BEYOND BORDERS



## CRIMINAL INJUSTICE



TEXAS  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
PROJECT



The background of the image is a photograph of the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas. The building is a grand, classical-style structure with multiple stories, numerous windows, and a prominent dome. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent orange filter, giving it a monochromatic appearance. The text "WHAT MAKES TEXAS LEGE?" is centered over the building.

# **WHAT MAKES TEXAS LEGE?**





### **2 CHAMBERS**

- **SENATE (31 MEMBERS)**
- **HOUSE OF REPS (150 MEMBERS)**

### **HOW OFTEN?**

- **ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS**
- **140 DAYS**

# **TEXAS LEGE IS BICAMERAL**

### **SPECIAL SESSIONS**

- **30 DAY 'MINI' SESSIONS**
- **CAN ONLY BE CALLED FOR BY GOVERNOR**

### **COMMITTEES**

- **HOUSE AND SENATE**
- **FINANCE, CALENDARS, ELECTIONS, ENERGY, ETC...**



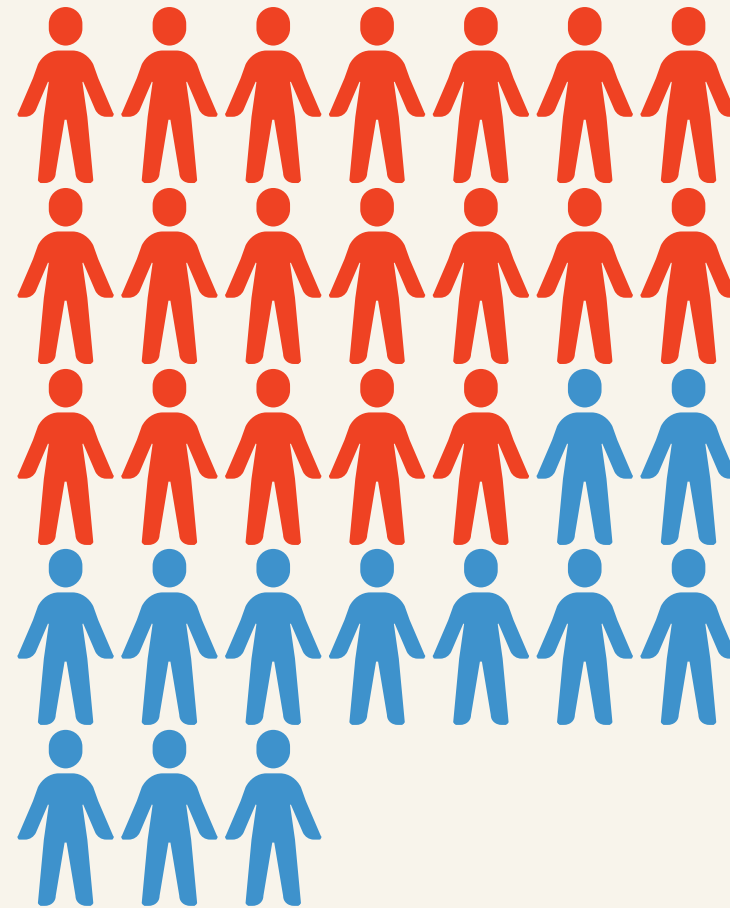
# HOUSE

- **150 members**
- **2 year terms**
- **Speaker of House leads**



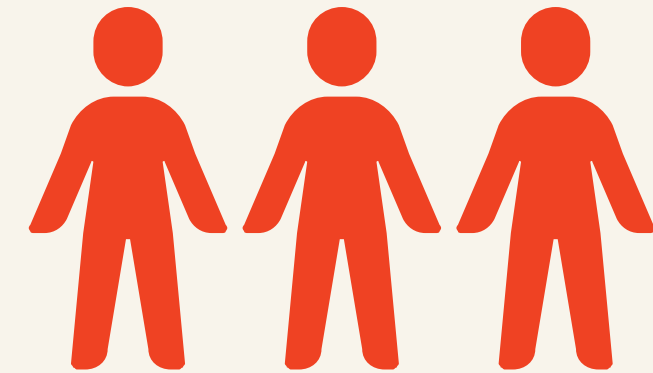
# SENATE

- **31 members**
- **4 year terms**
- **Lt. Gov leads**



# EXEC

- **Governor**
- **Lt. Governor**
- **Speaker of the House**





## what are committees?



Legislative committees are **subgroups** within the 2 chambers. As soon as a bill is filed, it will be sent to the committee **that deals with that issue.**



### SENATE COMMITTEES

- **15 committees**
  - **1 subcommittee**
  - **1 special committee**

### HOUSE COMMITTEES

- **34 committees**
  - **3 select committees**



**HOUSE OF REPS**

# **LIFE CYCLE OF A BILL**

**SENATE**

**BILL IS  
FILED**



**COMMITTEE**

**CALENDARS  
COMMITTEE**

**FLOOR  
DEBATE**

**BILL IS  
FILED**

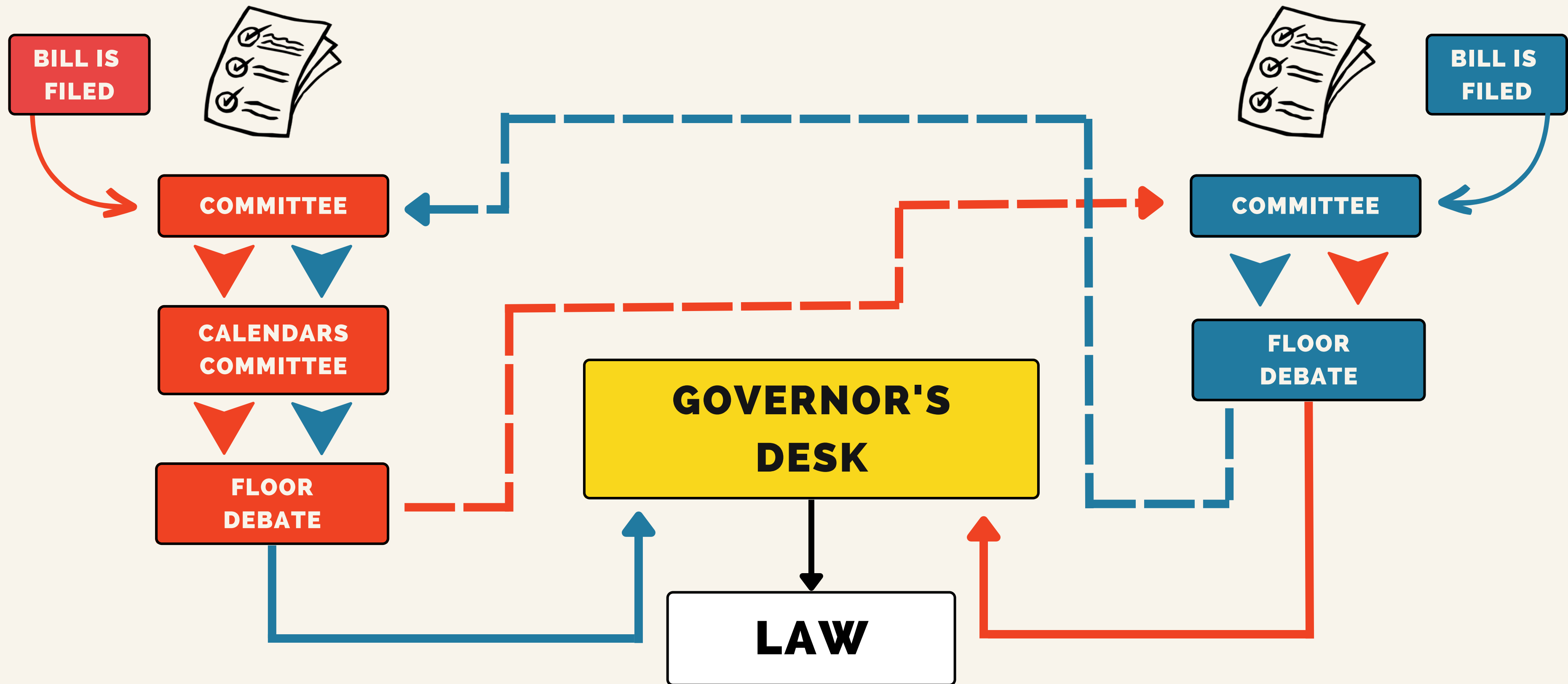


**COMMITTEE**

**FLOOR  
DEBATE**

**GOVERNOR'S  
DESK**

**LAW**





# TAKING ACTION AT LEGE



**how to advocate for  
yourself and your  
community!**







# making a plan

- **STEP 1: WHEN WILL YOU VISIT**
- **STEP 2: WHO WILL YOU VISIT**
- **STEP 3: WHAT IS YOUR PITCH**
- **STEP 4: WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND**

# ELEMENTS OF A PITCH

## FEEL

- Why does the issue matter to you?
- Why does this issue matter to your community?

## KNOW

- Is there data that can help make your claim?
- What organizations support this issue?

## DO

- What is the specific ask?
- Frame as what TO DO instead of what NOT TO DO





**Who are you and how are  
you connected to the  
community?**



**Why does this issue matter  
to you? What is happening  
in your community?**



**what do you want them to feel?**



My name is Crystal Vigil. I'm a resident of Houston, a public educator, and the proud mother of two small kids.

My son is 10. He still sleeps with his favorite stuffy at night. And this year, one of my students who is the same age as my son, was prosecuted through juvenile justice after he made a bad choice and shoplifted an iPad from a Target. This little boy was arrested in handcuffs that barely fit his wrists.

10 year olds don't belong in the Juvenile Justice system. They are still children and if they act out, it is usually because of trauma they are experiencing.

**What data supports your position?**



**What is the ask?**



**What do you want them to know and do?**



20% of 10-12 year olds in detention in 2018 were special education students. Half of the 10- to 12-year-olds in detention in 2018 had mental health needs. Kids that are in detention have underlying needs that need to be met with services not punishment.

**We ask for your support on two bills:**

HB 491 Increases the age from 10 to 12 the age at which a child can be prosecuted by OJJDP HB 501 raises the age of criminal responsibility from age 17 to age 18



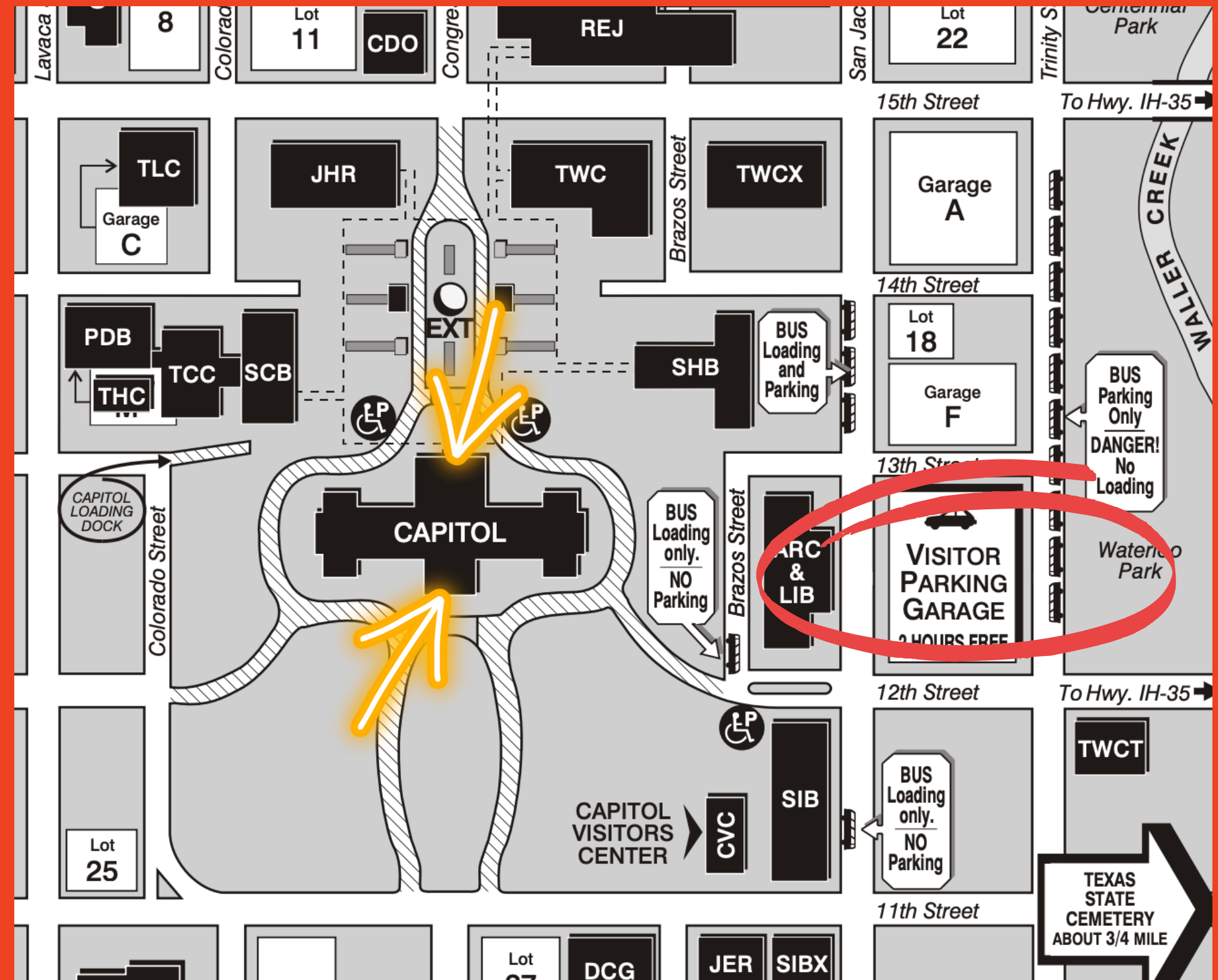


**GETTING  
TO THE  
CAPITOL**

**WHERE  
CAN I  
PARK?**

**WHERE  
DO I  
ENTER?**











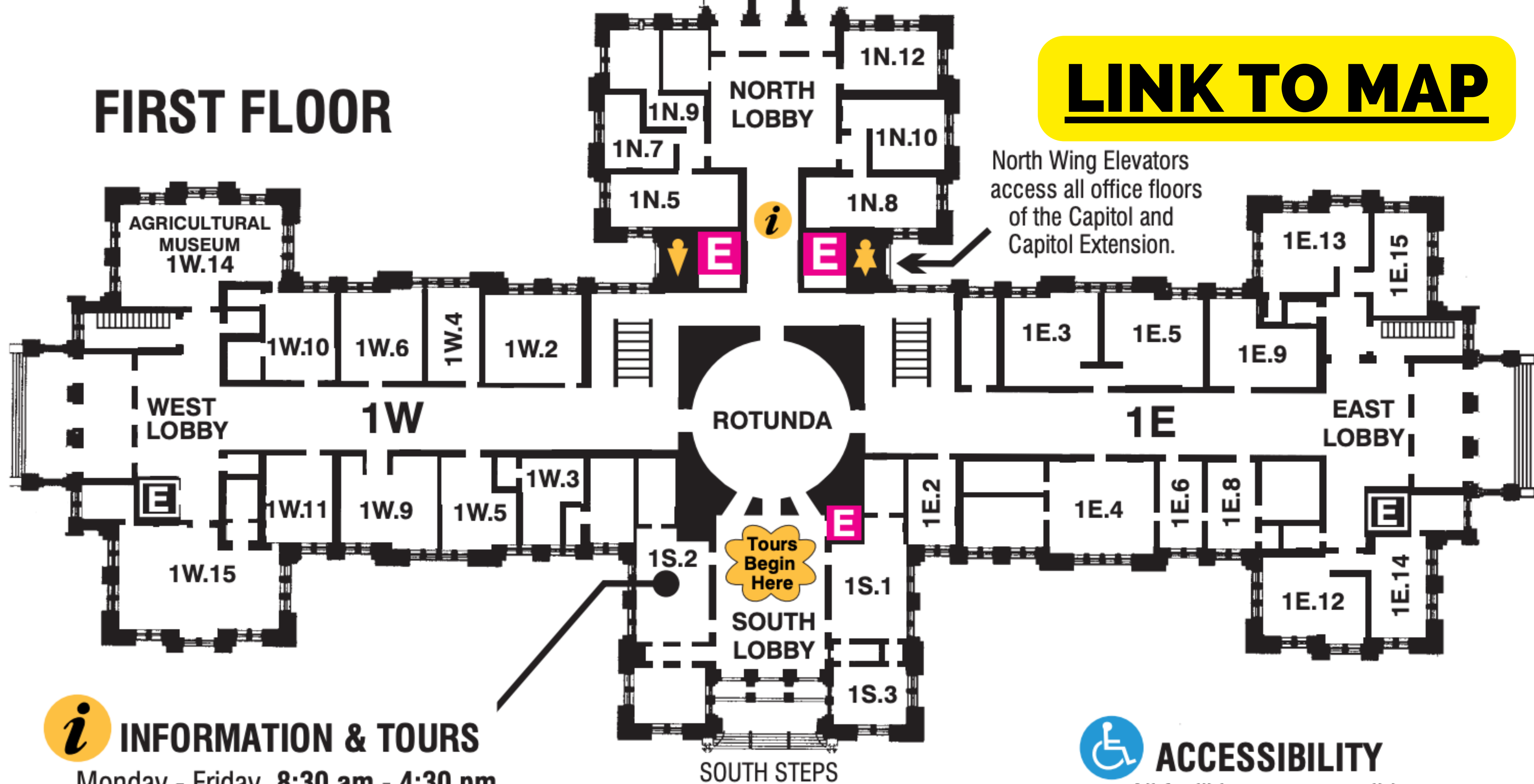
A low-angle, upward-looking shot of the interior of a large, ornate dome. The dome's surface is covered in a complex, repeating pattern of octagonal and rectangular recessed panels, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The color palette is warm, with various shades of beige, cream, and light brown. In the center of the dome, a large, five-pointed star is painted on a lighter circular background. The star is a golden-brown color and has the letters 'A', 'S', 'I', and 'E' positioned at its points. A wide, solid red horizontal band spans the lower portion of the image, serving as a background for the title text.

# INSIDE THE CAPITOL



# FIRST FLOOR

[\*\*LINK TO MAP\*\*](#)



## INFORMATION & TOURS

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Sunday, Noon - 3:30 pm

Call 512.463.0063 for more information

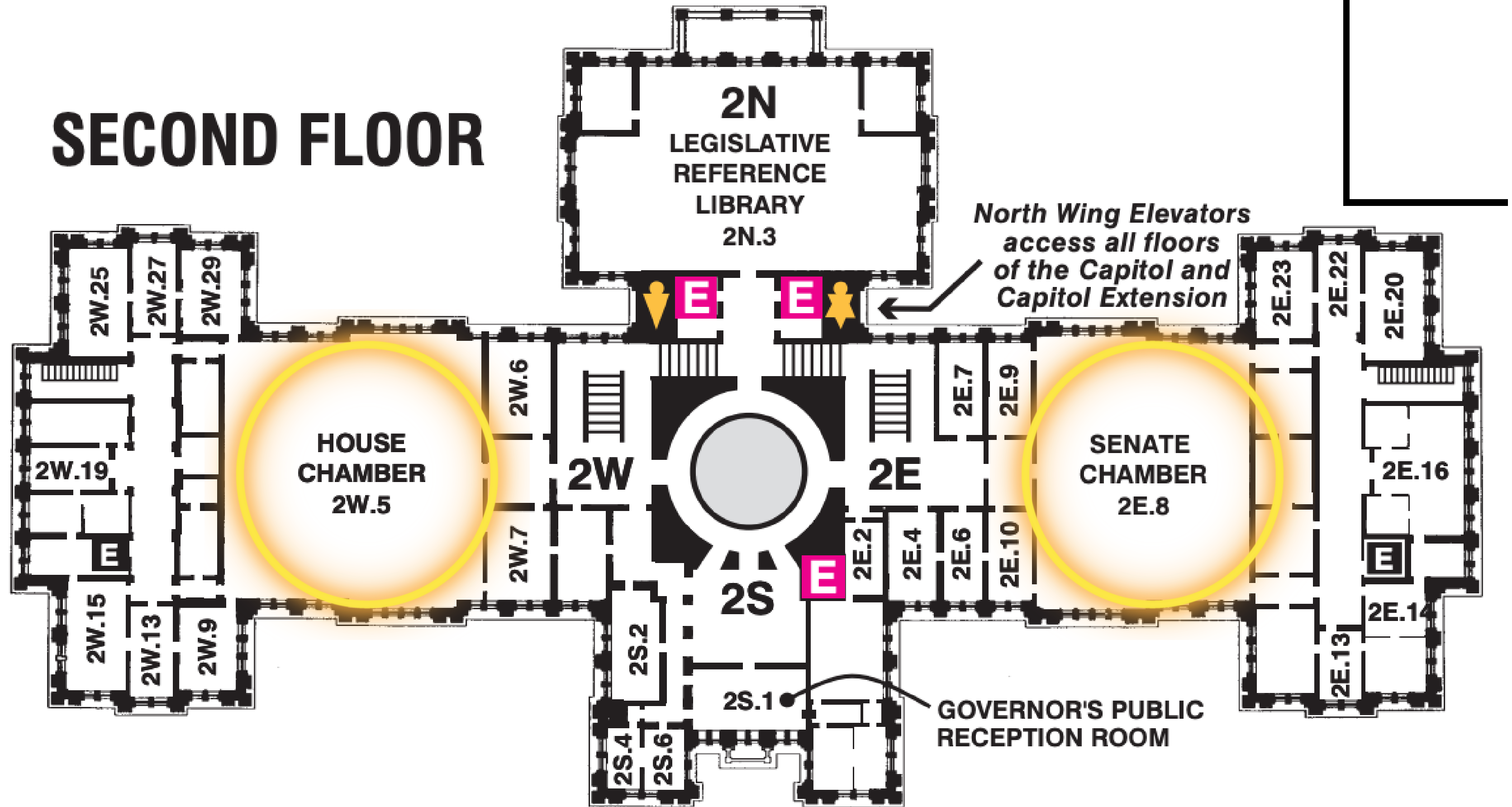


## ACCESSIBILITY

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

For assistance call 512.463.0063.

# SECOND FLOOR







# VISTING LEGISLATOR'S OFFICES



# **SCHEDULE MEETINGS**

most effective ways:

- **Call their office**
- **Email their office  
and staff**

# **DROP IN VISITS**

Directories of the capitol are available in both entrance lobbies

- **Note:** During unscheduled visits, it's not likely that you will have an opportunity to meet with the legislator, instead you will likely meet with a legislative aide.



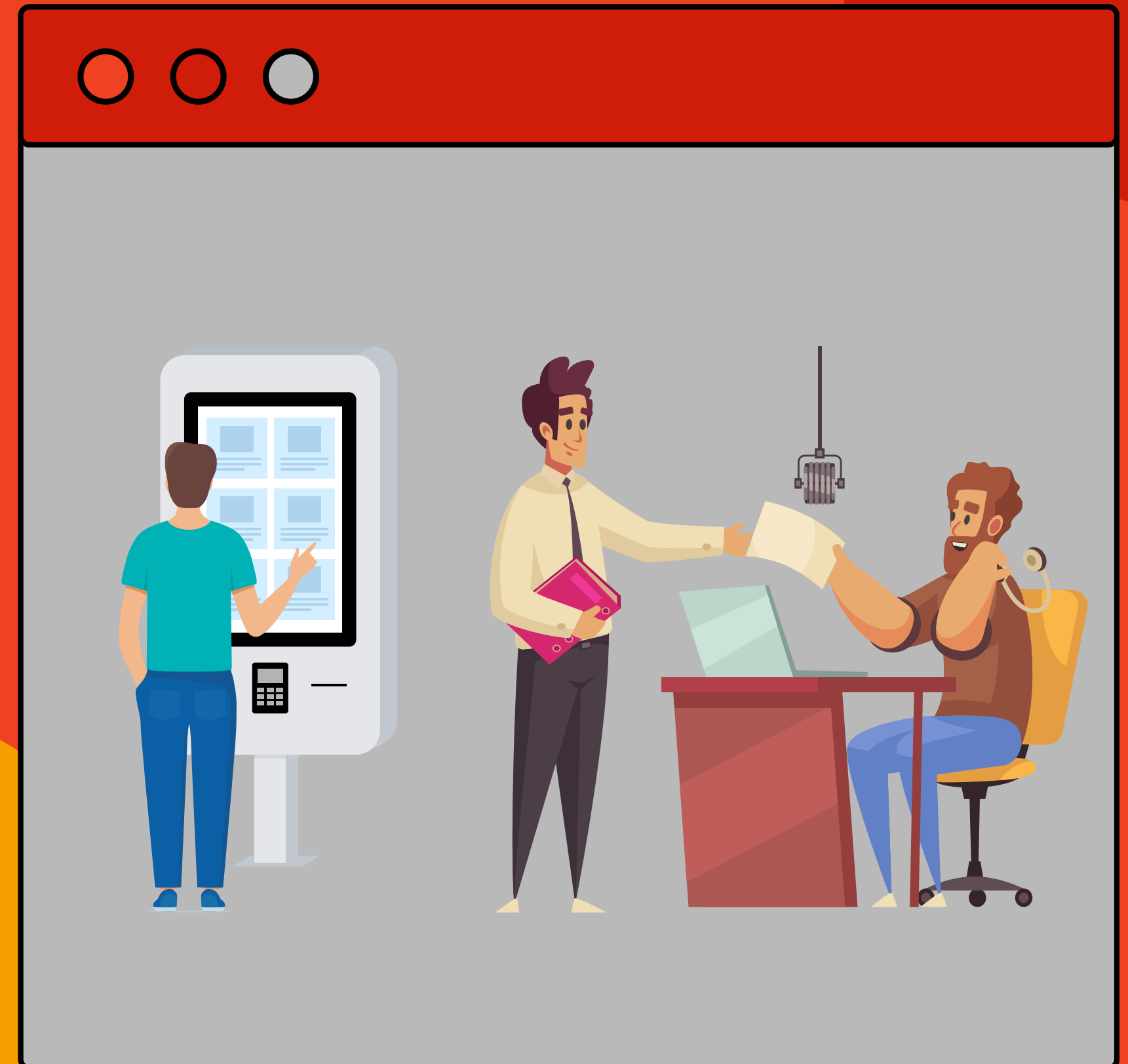
A person with glasses and a beard is speaking at a podium during a protest. The background is filled with various protest signs, including "#NOTDANDY", "ON PIE MAS", "NO WALL", "NATIVE LANDS", "FREE THEM ALL", and "ALL THE CASE". The image has a yellow and black color scheme.

# TESTIFYING AT LEGE



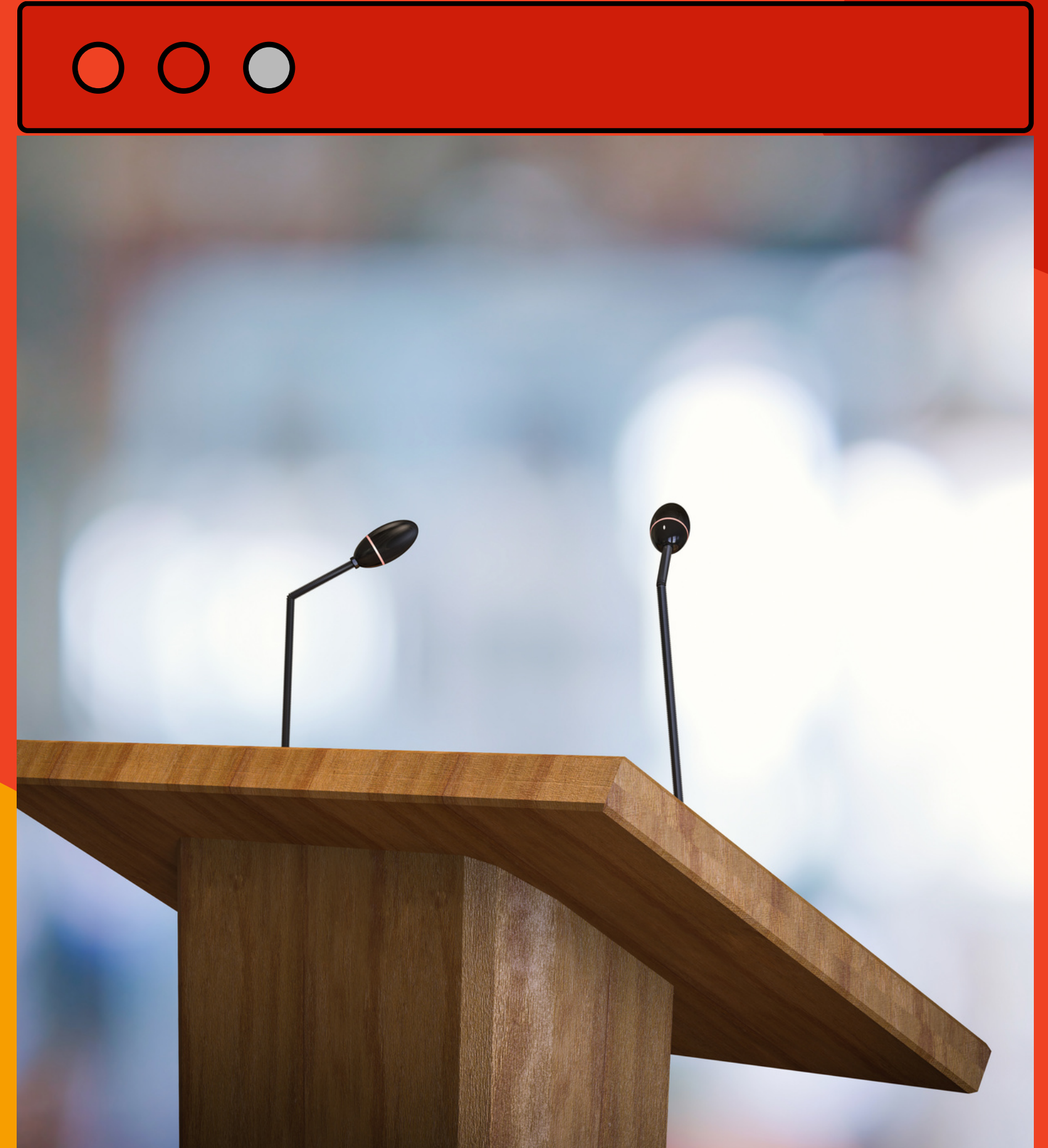
# HOW TO REGISTER

- **House: Kiosks in the Capitol Extension**
  - Find a kiosk
  - identify the hearing & bill you want to testify on
  - input your information
- **Senate: Use kiosk OR fill out a card at hearing room**
  - Enter hearing room
  - find card to register
  - turn it into the committee clerk (usually right next to where the legislators sit)



# WHAT TO EXPECT

- Chair will call out names in order
- **MUST** be in the room when your name is called to testify
- **1-3 minutes** to testify
  - Stay within the time limit
  - Bring enough copies of testimony for every member of the committee.







**TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT**

# QUESTIONS?



## CONTACT INFO

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