

# TEXAS GUN SENSE

## Texas Legislature: Supporting and Opposing Bills Toolkit

*Make Your Voice Heard on Gun Bills*

Committee hearings are a **critical opportunity** to make your voice heard on gun safety by testifying in person, submitting public comments, or registering your position.

Whether you speak or simply record your support or opposition, this guide will walk you through the process.



# How to Register a Position

Committee hearing notices provide details about when and where a hearing will take place, as well as how to testify. However, House hearing notices are often released two days in advance while Senate hearing notices only require a 24 hour notice, so be sure to check regularly and [sign up for our Texas Gun Sense alerts](#) to stay informed.

## Join us!

Take future action with a single click.  
[Log in](#) or [Sign up for FastAction](#)



First Name

Last Name

Street Address (Optional)

Postal Code (Optional)

City (Optional)

State (Optional)

Email

Mobile Phone (Optional)

Remember me so that I can use *FastAction* next time.

Submit

CONT.



# Texas House

## *How to Register a Position*

### In-Person Testimony

- Registration opens the morning of the hearing.
- You must register at a Capitol kiosk (located in the Capitol Extension, E2) on the day of the hearing or through the [House Witness Registration website](#) while connected to the Capitol's public Wi-Fi network.

### Drop a Card Without Testifying

Can't stay to testify? You can still make your stance count. Register For, Against, or Neutral via kiosk or online (Capitol Wi-Fi required).

### Remote Public Comment

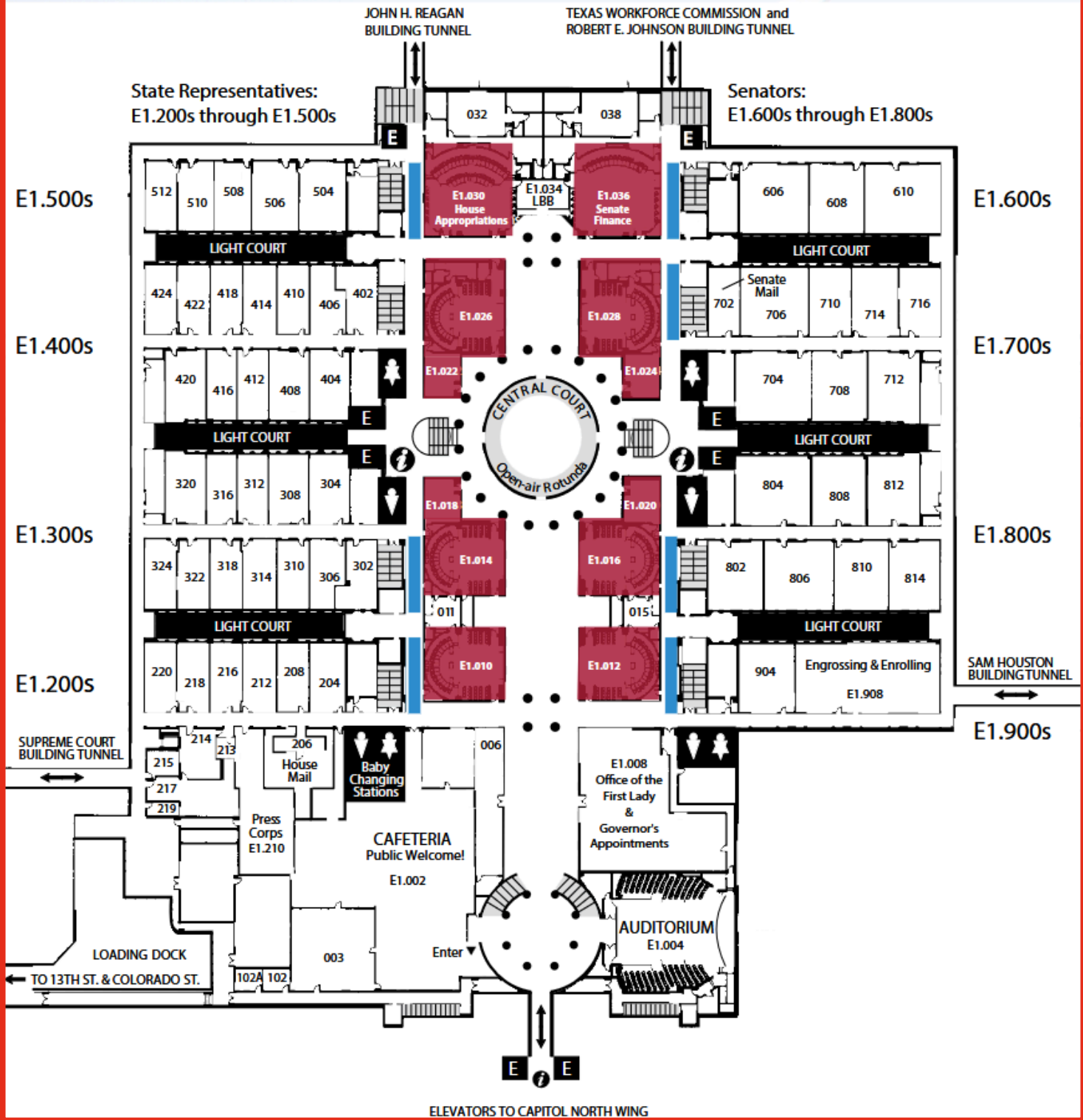
Some committees allow written comments to be submitted through the House website before the hearing. Check the committee's webpage for details.

**CONT.**



# Extension First Floor (E1)

■ Witness Registration Kiosks ■ Meeting Room

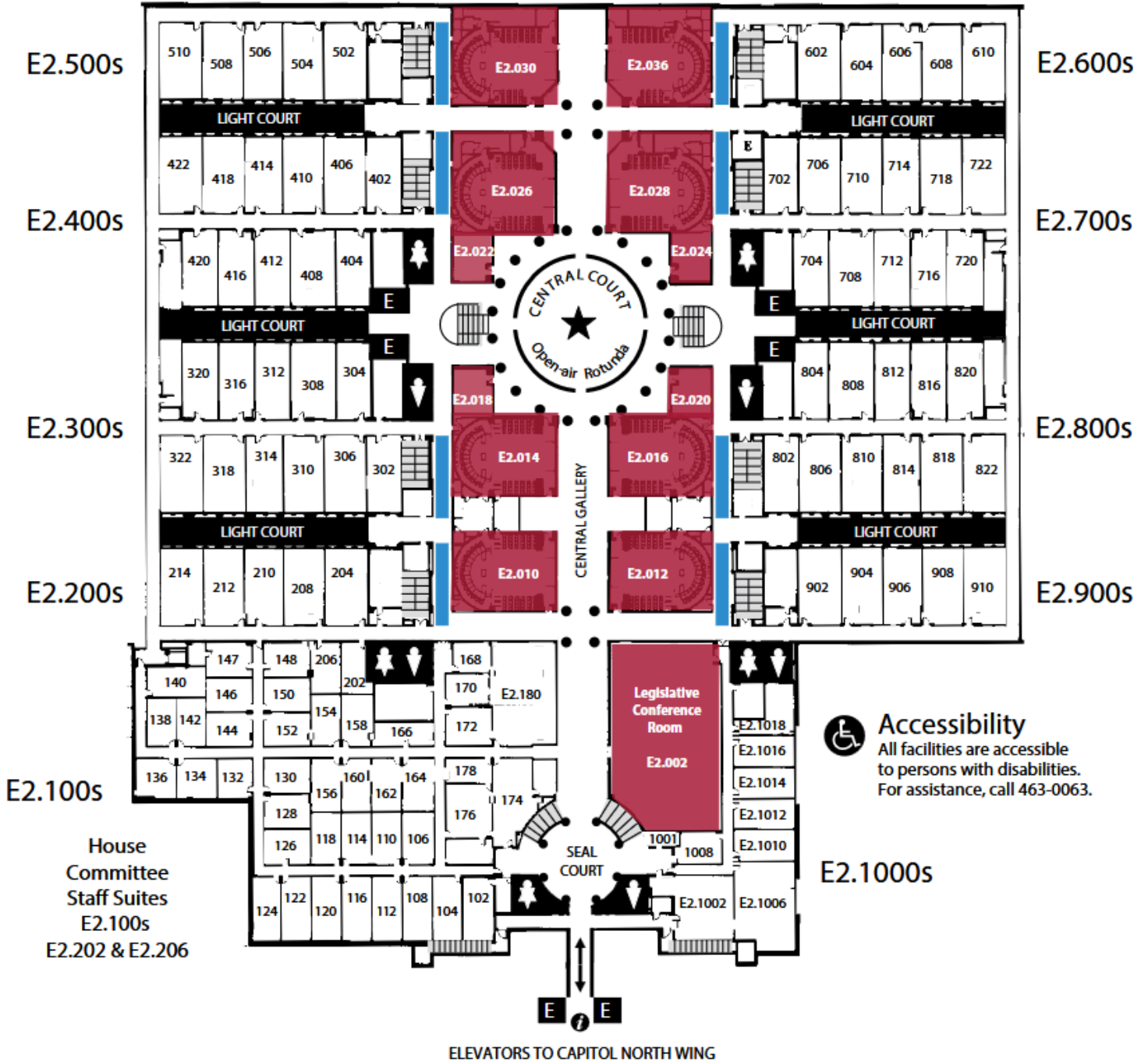


CONT. →

# Extension Second Floor (E2)

■ Witness Registration Kiosks    ■ Meeting Room

State Representatives:  
E2.200s through E2.900s



CONT. →



# Texas Senate

## *How to Register a Position*

### In-Person Testimony

Register at a kiosk at the entrance of the Senate chamber. Kiosks are also in the Capitol Extension, E1. Registration usually opens an hour before the hearing begins. There is no online registration for Senate hearings.



Image Credit: Austin LGBT Chamber

### Drop a Card Without Testifying

Can't stay to testify? You can still make your stance count. Register For, Against, or Neutral via kiosk or online (Capitol Wi-Fi required).

### Remote Public Comment

The Senate does not allow written public comments—testimony must be given in person.

# Tips for Crafting Effective Testimony

**Keep it concise** – Aim for 2-3 minutes. The hearing notice may indicate time limits.

**Make it personal** – Share your story and why this issue matters to you.

**Be prepared** – Bring ~25 printed copies of your testimony for committee members. The hearing notice will specify the exact amount required.

**Stay focused** – Stick to the specific bill and its impact.

**Thank lawmakers** – Be polite, even when disagreeing.

**Reference data** – Review our Advocacy Toolkit which includes key talking points and statistics to reference when drafting your testimony.

# Logistics: What to Expect on the Day of the Hearing

**Arrive early** – Hearings can be long, and sign-up lines fill up quickly.

**How it works** – The bill’s author will present the bill before public testimony begins.

**Timing** – Hearings may begin “upon adjournment” of the House or Senate floor session, which means they can start at unpredictable times.

**Be prepared to wait** – Testimony order isn’t always predictable.

**Listen for your name** – When called, go to the podium, introduce yourself, and state your position.

**Follow updates** – Hearing schedules can change. Check [TLO \(Texas Legislature Online\)](#) or the [committee’s website](#).



# FAQs

## **Q: Where do I find out when hearings are scheduled?**

Committee hearing notices are posted on the [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\) website](#) and may be released a few days before the hearing. Texas Gun Sense will send alerts when key gun safety bills are scheduled.

## **Q: Do I have to register in advance?**

No, you must register in person on the day of the hearing at a kiosk in the Capitol. If testifying in the House, you can register online once connected to the Capitol wifi.

**CONT.**



# FAQs

## **Q: Can I submit written comments instead of testifying?**

Yes! The Texas House allows some committees to accept public comments online, but the Senate does not. If you can't attend, you can still email lawmakers with your position or take our actions on specific bills.

## **Q: Do I need to be an expert to testify?**

No! Lawmakers want to hear from real Texans. Sharing your personal perspective or concerns is powerful.

## **Q: What happens if I run out of time while testifying?**

If time is limited, stick to your most important points. Lawmakers may ask you follow-up questions, and you can always submit your full written testimony to the committee.

# Stay Engaged With Us!

Sign up for Texas Gun Sense action alerts to know when critical gun bills are being heard.

**Follow us on social media** for updates on committee hearings and advocacy opportunities.



@texasgunsense



@txgunsense



txgunsense.org

