

COMPASSION AND JUSTICE

ADVOCACY DAY

Austin, Texas



HUNGER
IMMIGRATION
DEATH PENALTY
PUBLIC
EDUCATION

February 25, 2025



Fellowship
Southwest

WWW.FELLOWSHIPSOUTHWEST.ORG



Fellowship
Southwest

Welcome to Fellowship Southwest's Compassion and Justice Advocacy Day!

Fellowship Southwest is committed to loving our neighbors by practicing compassion and pursuing justice. Today, you have the opportunity to follow the command from the prophet Micah to "do justice." Whether you are a veteran advocate, or this is your first time in the Capitol, we hope you have a positive experience and leave feeling empowered.

The work of advocacy is a long road with many avenues for expression and impact. Today you are leveraging your voice and influence on behalf of and alongside those who rarely have their concerns heard in the halls of power. By doing so, you are fulfilling one of the highest callings of Christian citizenship.

Our commitment to justice is not dependent upon the political winds. In spite of obstacles, speak truth boldly today, sure of what is right and what the Lord has called you to do. Work to build bridges, make personal connections, and strive for pragmatic progress where possible. Take time to appreciate the opportunity we have to appeal to our elected officials. We're glad you're here and hope you'll consider Fellowship Southwest a partner for your advocacy efforts in the future.

-Stephen Reeves
Executive Director

Advocacy Day Schedule

8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration/Breakfast/Networking FBC Austin
9:00- 10:00 a.m.	Welcome: Stephen Reeves FSW Lobbyist Update: Shelton Green
10:00 - 11:00 a.m	Advocacy Issues Updates
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Legislative Group Planning Meeting (House)
11:40 - 12:10 p.m.	Legislative Group Planning Meeting (Senate)
12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Friendship West Baptist Church advocacy initiatives by Rev. Danielle Ayers Sponsorship Recognitions
1:00 - 1:20 p.m.	Commissioning and Final Instructions
1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (Approximately)	Legislative Visits Texas Capitol
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Reception: Raise Your Hand Texas (10th floor) 1005 Congress Ave. # 150, Austin, TX 78701

Commissioning Service



Congregational Song

"Your Labor Is Not in Vain"

Rev. Ross Tarpley

Scripture Reading

Elket Rodríguez

Zechariah 7:8-10 NLT

Then this message came to Zechariah from the Lord: "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other."

**Litany of
Commissioning**

**Rev. Cameron Vickrey
Rev. Cintia Aguilar**

Charge and Prayer

Rev. Anyra Cano

Litany of Commissioning

CINTIA God, who from the beginning, and even still today, brings order from chaos.

CAMERON From the tumultuous waters and darkness, you brought forth light and life.

CINTIA You stilled the waters and quieted the storm when your people were afraid and had but little faith.

ALL Teach us to have faith in your power to bring peace and justice.

CAMERON We are weary. We are discouraged by the sin and corruption, the forces that seem to prevail, pushing your loved ones further to the margins.

CINTIA Your people are here today because they choose to persist in hope. They, we, all of us, choose hope even when the world tells us it's a lost cause.

CAMERON You are the God of lost causes. You chase after one lost sheep even though there are 99 still with you.

ALL Teach us to chase after the lost causes. Give us your spirit of persistence.

CINTIA May the Spirit of the Lord be upon each of us, as you have ordained the people in this room as advocates, as representatives of your love and bearers of your justice.

CAMERON Give these advocates the words to say in the presence of power. Remind them that true power lies in abiding presence, and you are always present with us.

CINTIA May we rest in that promise and go forth feeling empowered to speak up for those whose voice has been silenced.

ALL Holy Spirit, empower us to speak up for the hungry.
Holy Spirit, empower us speak up for the imprisoned.
Holy Spirit empower us speak up for the persecuted, the immigrant, the stranger.
Holy Spirit empower us speak up for the best interest of children.

Holy Spirit, guide us to show love to our elected officials today and to pray with them, for their burden is heavy.

CAMERON And through our advocacy, may you do what you've done from the beginning: bring order and peace to a world filled with chaos and fear.

Meet our Lobbyist

Shelton Green

Shelton Green is a veteran of the Texas Legislature. He has over 20 years of experience as a government relations specialist, lobbyist, and legislative staffer. His tenure includes working in the Office of Speaker Joe Straus, at the Legislative Budget Board, as a registered lobbyist for the Texas Association of Business, and as a director of government relations for the Texas Tech University System.



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BUTTERFLIES?

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES have many symbolic meanings with which Fellowship Southwest resonates deeply:

- **Migration:** The journey of a butterfly represents the endurance and value of migration.
- **Indigenous Groups:** Monarch butterflies are sacred to Indigenous groups on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.
- **Mexican Culture:** In Mexico, monarch butterflies are a cultural symbol that connects the living to the dead.
- **Human Rights:** Monarch butterflies are a symbol for human rights.
- **Biological Diversity:** Monarch butterflies are a symbol for advocates of biological diversity.
- **Transformation:** The metamorphosis of a butterfly represents transformation.

Meet our Speakers

Hunger

Stacie Sanchez-Hare, Texas Program Director, No Kid Hungry

Stacie leads the campaign to end child hunger in Texas. She joins us after working at City Year San Antonio as the Managing Director of Impact, overseeing partnerships with schools and community organizations in the San Antonio area. Before returning to Texas in 2017, she lived in New York City for 15 years where she worked in city government and nonprofit roles related to youth development, community engagement, and social justice issues. Stacie earned a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from St. Edward's University. Stacie serves on the Jolt Texas Initiative Board, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young Latinos in civic engagement. Stacie is based in San Antonio where she was born and raised.



Jamie Olson, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Feeding Texas

As Director of Policy & Advocacy, Jamie focuses on federal and state policies around food, nutrition, and economic development. Previously Jamie worked as Policy Analyst and as Supply Chain Manager for Feeding Texas and as Senior Program Associate at the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Along with a diverse background in both the non-profit and public sectors, Jamie holds a Master of Global Policy Studies with a specialization in Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Temple University.



Meet our Speakers

Death Penalty

Rev. Danielle Ayers, Pastor of Justice, Friendship-West Baptist Church

Rev. Danielle Ayers is a justice seeker, author, preacher, and teacher. She leads the church's public policy agenda and justice initiatives. Through education and advocacy training, she prepares the congregation and community to mobilize and organize around the following impact areas: economic justice, food justice, gender justice, environmental justice, legal clinic, racial reconciliation, civic engagement, and immigration. Ayers builds strong coalitions and develops partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations seeking a just society.



Rev. Ayers holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from The University of Memphis and a Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. She is pursuing her Doctorate of Ministry at SMU Perkins School of Theology. Rev. Ayers is the co-author of *To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministries in the Black Church*.

Kristin Houle Cuellar, Executive Director, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) is a statewide advocacy organization based in Austin. She has led the organization since December 2008. From 2007-2008, Kristin was a Soros Justice Fellow and conducted research and public education around the intersection of the death penalty and severe mental illness in Texas. Prior to moving to Texas in 2007, she served for five years as the Program Associate for Amnesty International USA's Program to Abolish the Death Penalty in Washington, DC. Kristin became involved with the anti-death penalty movement in the mid 1990s, when she was an undergraduate student at the University of Kentucky, and she has remained a social justice advocate (and devoted UK Wildcats basketball fan).



Tiara Cooper, Deputy Director, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Dallas native Tiara Cooper is an award-winning social justice leader committed to mobilizing marginalized people, uplifting their stories, and utilizing grassroots efforts to impact policy change at the municipal, state, and federal levels.



Tiara is an alumna of Howard University's Theology, Radicalized Policing and Justice Reform cohort where she earned a certificate in Divinity, an Emerging Leaders fellow, and a CUNY fellow.

Meet our Speakers

Public Education

Charles Johnson, Executive Director, Pastors for Texas Children

Pastor and public education advocate. Founder and co-pastor of Bread, a faith community in Fort Worth, Texas. Throughout his forty-year pastoral ministry he has served churches in Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas.

Advocacy for children has long been a cornerstone of Rev. Johnson's work. He served on the Board of Trustees of New Horizons Treatment Center for Children and the Child Friendly Faith Project. In 2013, he founded Pastors for Texas Children, a statewide ecumenical organization mobilizing the faith community for public education support and advocacy. PTC now has over 2,000 faith partners throughout Texas and sister networks in four states.

Rev. Johnson is a frequent preacher and speaker in university, church, business, education, and non-profit circles. He has written for numerous publications and has made guest appearances on cable network news shows.



Charles Luke, Co-Director Pastors for Texas Children

Dr. Charles Luke has over 30 years of education and non-profit experience, having served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in several Texas public school districts. He earned his Bachelors of Science and Masters of Education from Texas Tech University and his doctorate in education from the University of North Texas.

In addition to his work with Pastors for Texas Children, he also serves as the Coordinator of the Coalition for Public Schools and as the founder and Director of the Coalition for Education Funding. He currently serves on the Faith-Based Advisory Board of the Child Welfare League of America, the Fort Worth Mayor's Faith Advisory Cabinet, and on the advisory board for Helping Restore Ability in Arlington, Texas.



Meet our Speakers

Immigration

Kristin Etter, Director of Policy and Legal Services, Legal Immigration Council

As the Director of Policy and Legal Services at the Texas Immigration Law Council, Kristin Etter develops strategies and programs to move forward practical immigration reforms for Texas and our nation. Prior to joining Texas Immigration Law Council, Kristin served as the Special Project Director of Operation Lone Star at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid where she developed and implemented the litigation response to Operation Lone Star. With over 20 years of federal and state litigation and policy experience, Kristin frequently shares her expertise on immigration and border issues with state and federal governmental officials, non-governmental organizations and media. In addition to representing thousands of immigrants throughout her legal career, Kristin is also regularly engaged in collaborating with advocacy organizations and policy makers, drafting and analyzing legislation, testifying on legislative issues, and educating immigrant communities, attorneys, judges, students, business and law enforcement groups.



Elket Rodríguez, Field Personnel, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Elket serves the communities and the migrants in the U.S.-Mexico border. He encourages churches along and across the U.S. and Mexico border to engage with migrants, asylum seekers and the vulnerable in their communities.

Rodríguez hosts workshops in the U.S and in Mexico to educate migrants, asylum seekers, pastors, and churches on the biblical foundations of welcoming the stranger and loving our neighbor. He also coordinates CBF's immigration advocacy efforts and leads CBF's Advocacy Action Team for Immigrants and Refugees. The group cultivates a network of active advocates encouraging direct policy advocacy at critical moments alongside and on behalf of immigrants and refugees.



Rodríguez was born and raised in Puerto Rico where he earned an undergraduate degree in journalism and a law degree from the University of Puerto Rico.

Meet our Staff



Elket Rodriguez, Immigration Advocacy Specialist, erodriguez@cbf.net
Can help you with: Understanding immigration policies, immigration process, immigration history. He is available to speak at your church.

Cintia Aguilar, Immigration Ministry Manager, cintia@fellowshipsouthwest.org
Can help you with: Thriving Congregations Immigration Ministry and the intersection of ministry and social work. She is available to preach at your church or speak about FSW.

Anyra Cano, Director of Programs and Outreach, anyra@fellowshipsouthwest.org
Can help you with: Border trips and partnerships, information on internships, webinars, conferences, and other programs. She is available to speak at your church about FSW and provide training on cross-cultural considerations.

Stephen Reeves, Executive Director, sreeves@fellowshipsouthwest.org
Can help you with: Understanding the intersection of faith and public life, advocacy, lobbying; connecting you to coalitions. He is available to speak at your church about FSW.

Zion Williams, Media Manager, zion@fellowshipsouthwest.org
Can help you with: Information on the FSW newsletter, social media, promotional pieces, and FSW events.

Cameron Vickrey, Director of Communications and Development, cameron@fellowshipsouthwest.org
Can help you with: Finding ways to support FSW, advocacy training, and anything related to the website, communications and events. She is available to speak at your church about FSW.

6 ways to stay involved with Fellowship Southwest:

Give

Your donation to Fellowship Southwest welcomes migrants, supports racial justice and Native justice, and feeds the hungry.

[GIVE HERE](#)

Border Trip

- Border Encounters
- Ministry
- Construction

Thriving Congregations Immigration Ministry

Up to 10 churches per year participate in a two-year cohort to develop or expand immigration ministries, and by doing so, their congregations thrive.

Summer Internships

An opportunity to serve alongside experienced partners welcoming migrants, learn about immigration policy and advocacy, and join a network of advocates, storytellers, and witnesses to Fellowship Southwest's work of compassion and justice.

Stay engaged

- Website
- Weekly Newsletter
- Social Media
- Invite us to your church

Advocate

By staying engaged, you'll receive updates on advocacy opportunities and connections to partners working on similar issues.

Thank You!

Patsy Meier, Breakfast Sponsor

In honor of ReverendMamas: Ministers, Moms, and Co-Authors: Cameron Mason Vickrey and Victoria Robb Powers

First Baptist Austin

Thank you for warmly welcoming FSW and hosting our Advocacy Day.

Raise Your Hand Texas

Thank you for warmly welcoming FSW and hosting our Advocacy Day.

C3I Interns, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University

Thank you for all your hard work in organizing the legislative meetings. You made this day possible.

A heartfelt thank you to all our incredible speakers and their organizations for generously sharing your time and expertise at both the webinars and Advocacy Day.

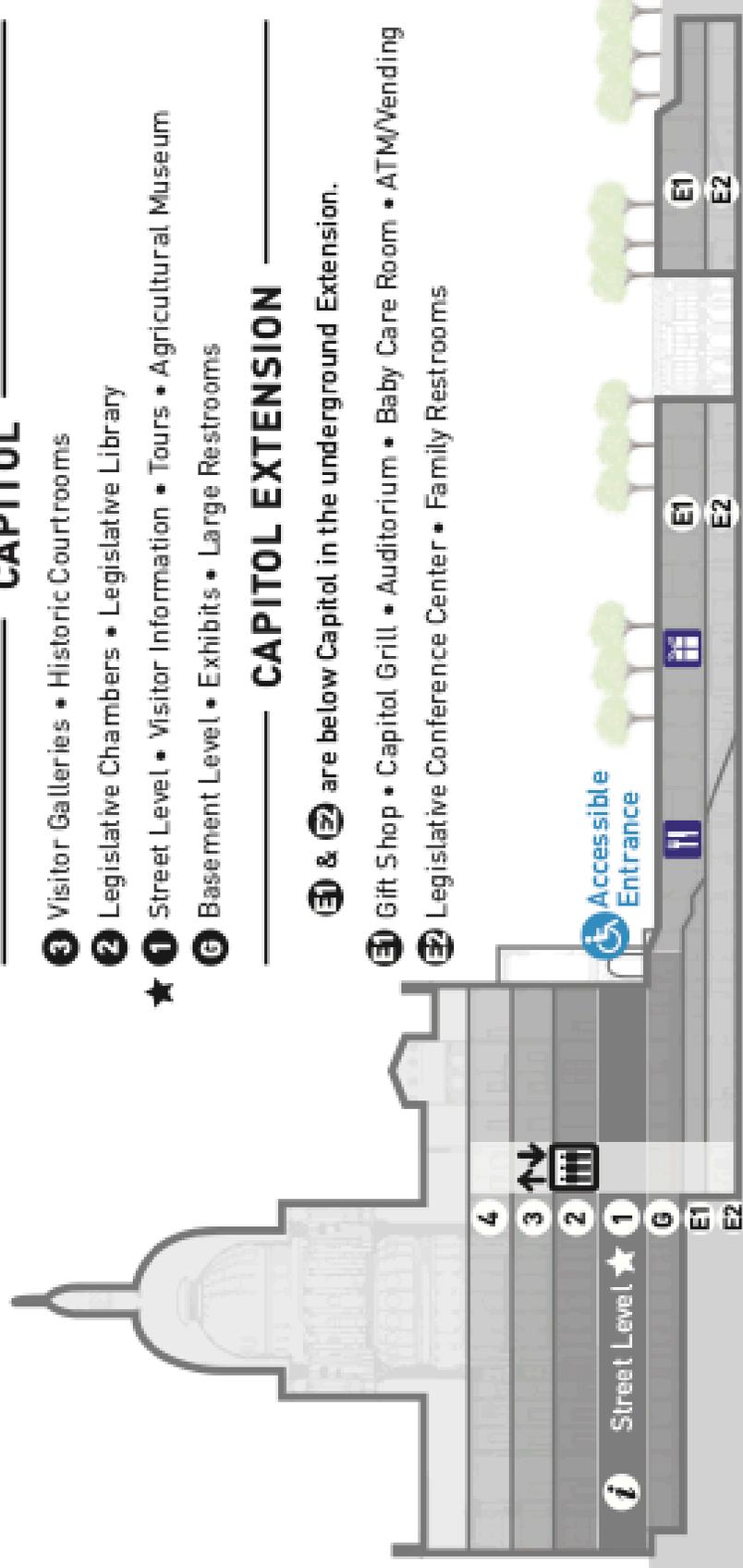
CAPITOL

- 3 Visitor Galleries • Historic Courtrooms
- 2 Legislative Chambers • Legislative Library
- ★ 1 Street Level • Visitor Information • Tours • Agricultural Museum
- G Basement Level • Exhibits • Large Restrooms

CAPITOL EXTENSION

E1 & E2 are below Capitol in the underground Extension.

- E1 Gift Shop • Capitol Grill • Auditorium • Baby Care Room • ATM/Vending
- E2 Legislative Conference Center • Family Restrooms



TEXAS CAPITOL VISITOR'S GUIDE

Standard Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. (subject to change)

Regular Legislative Session: Odd Years, January - May

For Tours, Accessibility & Info Call: 512.305.8400

FIRST FLOOR (Street Level)

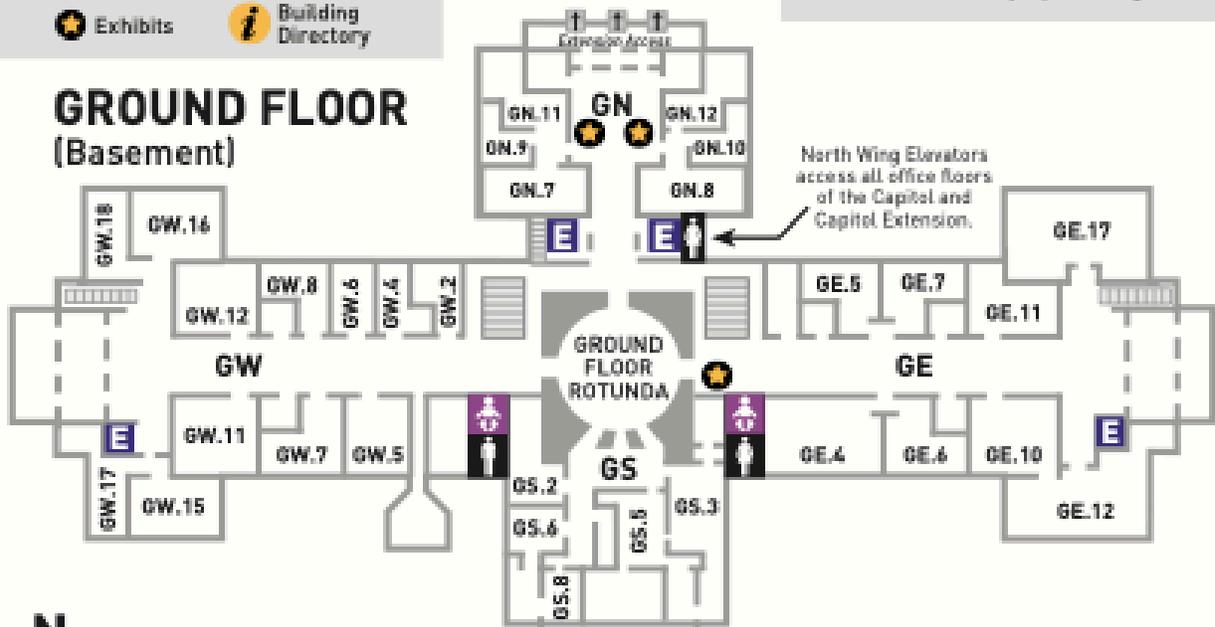


INFORMATION & TOURS
 Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Saturday: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Sunday: Noon - 3:30 pm
 Call 512.463.0063 or email
webmaster@tspb.texas.gov
 for more information.

- Exhibits
- Building Directory

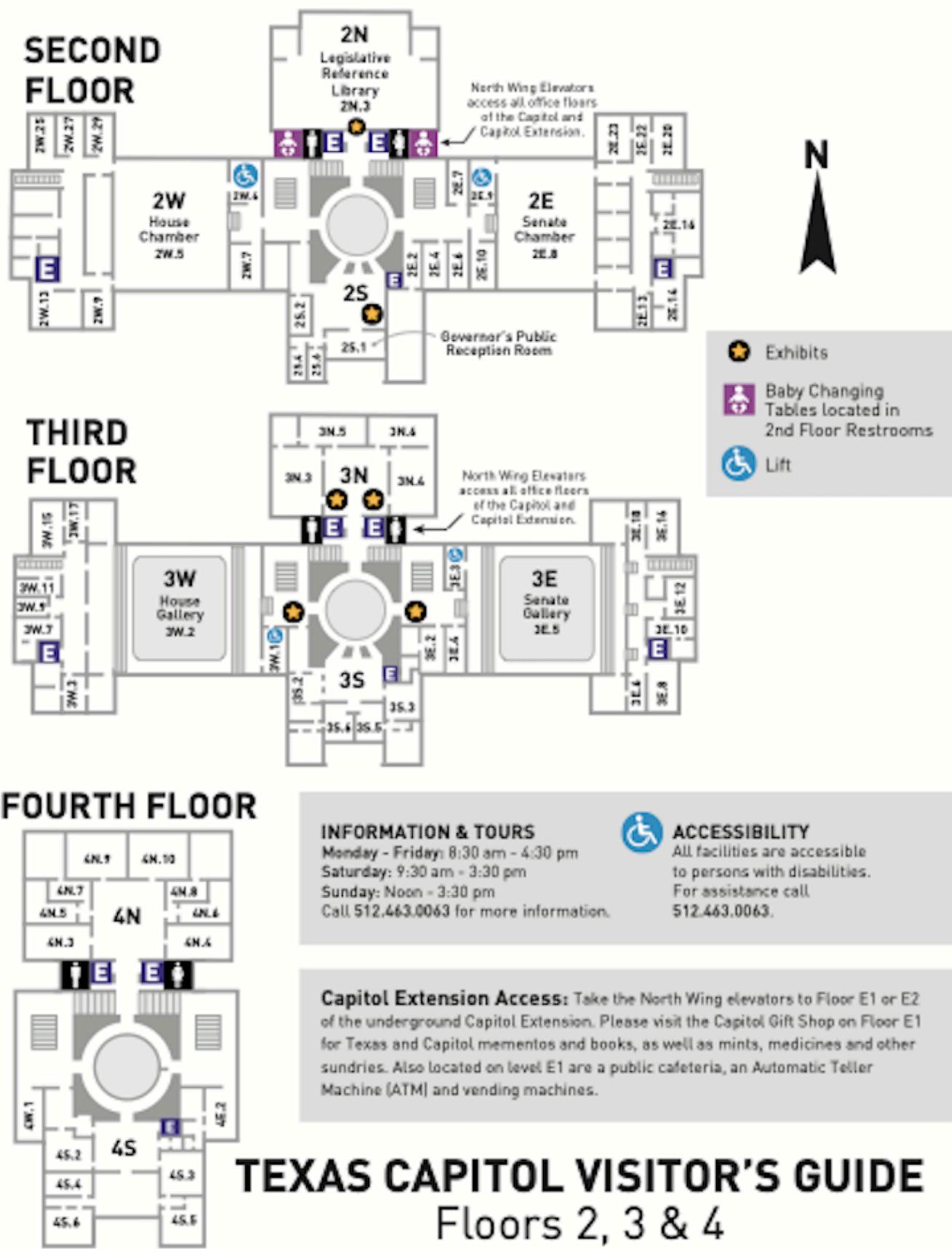
ACCESSIBILITY
 All facilities are accessible
 to persons with disabilities.
 For assistance call
 512.463.0063 or email
webmaster@tspb.texas.gov.

GROUND FLOOR (Basement)



TEXAS CAPITOL VISITOR'S GUIDE

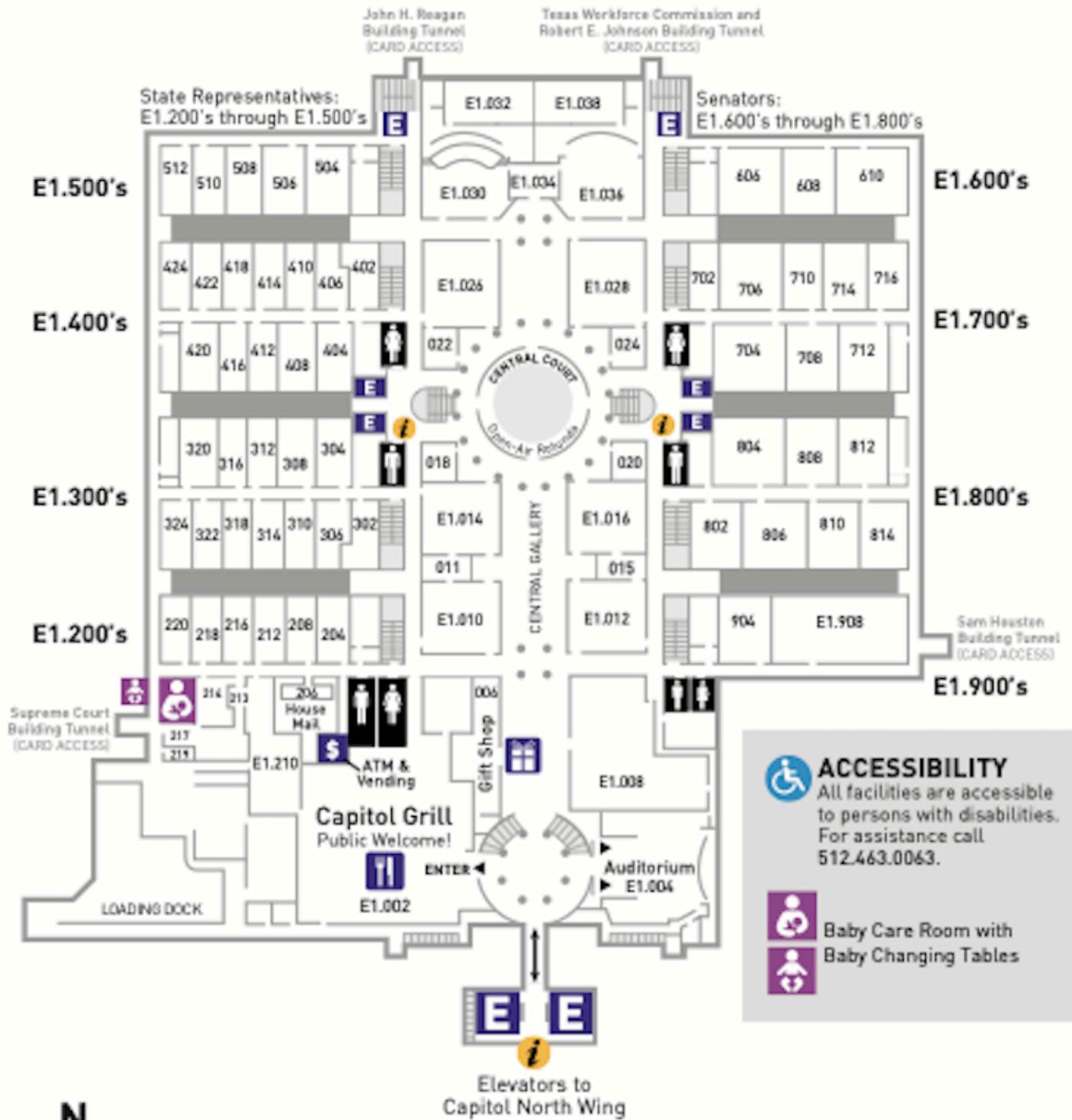
Floors 1 & Ground



TEXAS CAPITOL VISITOR'S GUIDE

Floors 2, 3 & 4

EXTENSION FIRST FLOOR (E1)



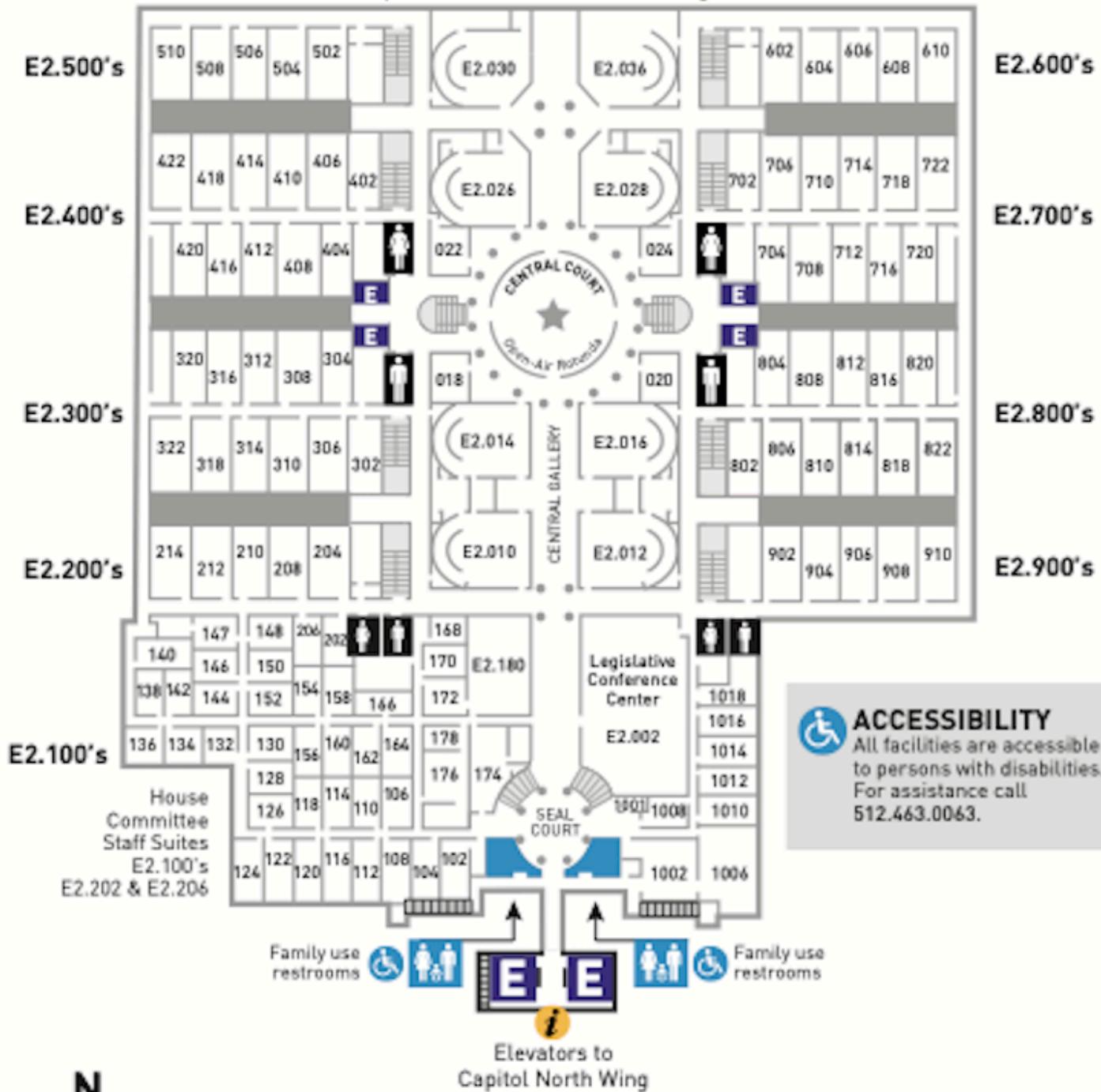
ACCESSIBILITY
All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. For assistance call 512.463.0063.

Baby Care Room with Baby Changing Tables



EXTENSION SECOND FLOOR (E2)

State Representatives Offices E2.200 through E2.900's



ACCESSIBILITY
All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. For assistance call 512.463.0063.





Fellowship
Southwest