

**State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625**

[Updated July 26, 2021]

Access to Media Events

While members of the general public are sometimes permitted to attend press events hosted by the Office of the Governor—subject to capacity limitations, logistical concerns, and security protocols—certain press events are restricted to accredited journalists and reporters. This policy, which will be effective on August 1, 2021, will govern media access to such press events and supersedes the Office’s previous policy and practice. After August 1, 2021, the Office will no longer issue New Jersey State House Credentials to members of the press. New Jersey State House Credentials currently held by members of the press will be invalidated on December 31, 2021.

Starting on August 1, 2021, if a member of the press wishes to attend a press event that is not open to the general public, such as a press-only briefing, the individual must present valid media credentials. Such credentials must identify the individual as a journalist or reporter and must have been issued by a recognized press association (such as the New Jersey Press Association or the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists), governmental body, law enforcement agency, or another entity recognized in other jurisdictions, such as the New York Press Association, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, NYPD Media Credential, or Metropolitan Police Department Media Credential (Washington D.C.).

If an individual wishes to attend a press event that is not open to the general public, but does not carry valid credentials from any of the entities listed above and believes that they should be treated as a member of the press, such an individual may seek a temporary pass by submitting a written request to Alyana.Alfaro@nj.gov at the Governor’s Press Office, along with any documentation, explaining the need for a pass. An individual who submitted a request for a temporary pass but has not received a decision will not be permitted to attend a closed press event. The Office, in evaluating whether to issue a pass, will consider the following content-neutral factors:

1. Whether the requestor is employed by or affiliated with an organization whose principal business is news dissemination;
2. Whether the parent news organization:
 - a. Publishes news continuously for at least 18 months; and
 - b. Has a periodical publication component or an established television, radio, or digital presence;
3. Whether the requestor is a paid or full-time correspondent, or if not, whether the requestor is acting on behalf of a student-run news organization affiliated with a New Jersey high school, college, or university;
4. Whether the requestor is a reputable bona fide correspondent in their profession, and whether the requestor and their employing organization:
 - a. Avoid real and perceived conflicts of interest;
 - b. Are free of associations that would compromise journalistic integrity or damage credibility;
 - c. Act to preserve their journalistic integrity by, for example, declining compensation, favors, special treatment, secondary employment, or political involvement; and
 - d. Resist pressures from advertisers, donors, or any other special interests to influence coverage.
5. Whether the requestor or their employing organization engaged in any lobbying, paid advocacy, advertising, publicity, or promotion work for any individual, political party, corporation, or organization.

These factors are non-exhaustive. A decision on the request will be conveyed to the requestor, and if a request is denied, the Office will provide a statement of reasons for the denial.

For all other press events held within the New Jersey Statehouse Complex that are accessible to the public, an individual who does not carry valid media credentials

from any of the entities listed above may gain access by way of a visitor pass, just like a member of the general public.¹

¹ A member of the press who wishes to access Press Row should contact Alyana.Alfaro@nj.gov and Brian.Murray@njsp.org.