

Inauguration 2009

2009 Inaugural Information

For information on all inaugural events, please visit

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies

Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony

A limited number of tickets to the Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony, held on January 20, 2009, will be distributed to each Congressional office by the Inaugural Committee.

Due to large request, our office cannot accept additional requests for tickets to the ceremony. Those individuals/groups that have been selected to receive tickets will be contacted by my office. Additionally, the National Mall will be open to the public on Inauguration Day and the D.C. government plans to set up jumbotron televisions and loudspeakers to view and listen to the events. The Mall will open for visitors at 8:00 a.m.

The actual swearing-in will take place shortly before noon, and the formal program will begin at 11:30 a.m. Security checkpoints will open for ticketed guests at 8:00 a.m., and guests are advised to arrive no later than 9:00 a.m. to ensure that you are through the checkpoints by the time the program begins. Screening will end when the program begins at 11:30 a.m. and late arrivals will not be able to enter the Capitol grounds.

Getting to the swearing-in ceremonies that morning will be very difficult because of the large crowds. For those people who will be staying within 2 miles of the U.S. Capitol, walking to the swearing-in ceremony will be the most reliable method of reaching the ticketed seated and standing areas. For those people who will be staying beyond 2 miles of the U.S. Capitol, public transportation will be the most reliable method. The D.C. Metro system will be running "rush-hour" service beginning at 4:00 a.m. on January 20, 2009 and ending at 2:00 a.m. on January 21, 2009.

Inaugural Parade

The Inaugural Parade, which takes place after the Swearing-In Ceremony, will be open to the public and does not require tickets. The parade will make its way down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House. The President, first-family, and groups from across the country will participate.

Inaugural Balls

Inaugural Balls are coordinated by the Presidential Inaugural

Committee . The Pennsylvania Society of Washington, D.C. is also hosting an Inaugural Gala on the evening of January 20, 2009.

**** Important Event Information ****

Please read the Inaugural Advisory

The city is expecting between 1 and 3 million people to attend the inauguration. This means that many streets within the city and the bridges connecting D.C. and Virginia will be closed. In addition, parking will be near impossible to find. Please visit the D.C. inaugural website for further information.

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities - there will be no vehicular access or parking in the areas around the U.S. Capitol. This includes vehicles with special disability license plates or tags. While there will be locations outside the perimeter designated as drop-off points for persons with disabilities, traffic conditions and restrictions may make reaching these drop-off locations extremely difficult.

The weather in Washington D.C. in January is usually quite cold and often rainy or snowy. Please think carefully about whether you can stand outside in cold weather in a large crowd for up to six hours, and whether you are ready for long delays getting home afterwards. Umbrellas will not be permitted in the ticketed areas.