

Dear Colleagues,

The WHCA board unanimously approved a new seating chart for the press briefing room, which is attached to this email. It will take effect on Monday, February 9, 2026.

The seating review committee, led by chair Jacqui Heinrich, spent several months combing through the hundreds of applications we received for the 49 seats in the Brady Briefing Room. They weighed a variety of factors including an outlet's reach, long-term commitment to White House coverage, service to colleagues through WHCA pooling, and ability to dependably fill a seat as assigned.

Since the last revision in 2022, most outlets have continued to fill their assigned seats. However, there was room for movement after some outlets pulled back from White House coverage, withdrew from pools, or closed DC offices, which factored into our decisions.

We also sought to recognize how the media landscape has changed, with the emergence of new digital-only outlets and political newsletters that have dedicated significant resources to White House coverage. There was an expansion of regional television networks, which continued to grow at a rapid pace.

For outlets we couldn't accommodate this time around, we encourage you to continue expanding your pooling efforts and footprint at the White House.

We believe the seating chart reflects the WHCA's recognition of outlets committed to professional coverage of the presidency:

- The new chart gives assignments to 66 news outlets.
- Of those outlets, 7 are receiving their first ever assignment.
- In addition, there are two robust rotations that open access for dozens more organizations
- Every member of the in-town print pool that requested a seat has been assigned one, as have all nine members of the radio pool.
- Changes were made to 33 of the 49 seats in the room.

As in the past, we expect the organizations we've assigned to share or rotate a seat to work together to determine the arrangement that best suits them. We will not be prescriptive. But we do ask that you actively engage with your partner organization to be sure that your seat is filled, as assigned, for every briefing.

Any outlet that consistently fails to fill its seat could face suspension or total loss.

While the board did not contemplate a comprehensive workspace review, we are considering a few limited opportunities to assign a seat share or alternate status on a few of the desks as outlets change their approach to in-person presidential coverage. We will reach out directly to impacted outlets.

Thank you for your patience during this process. Please direct your questions about the seating chart to Jacqui Heinrich. (<mailto:jacqui.heinrich@fox.com>)