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ALABAMA

## What to know about Alabama's new \$400M State House



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### Key Points

Alabama's new State House is on track to be completed by the end of the year, according to project officials.

The \$400 million project will replace the current State House, which was originally built as a highway department building in 1963.

After the new building is finished, the old one will be demolished to create a greenspace.

The new structure will feature expanded legislative chambers, improved accessibility, and upgraded technology for live-streaming sessions.

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The new Alabama State House will be ready for use by the end of the year, officials managing the project have confirmed.

The project has been in progress for some time, with serious inquiries into the project becoming tangible beginning around 2023. The Retirement Systems of Alabama led the management of the project, as well as the design, with architecture and engineering firm Goodwyn Mills Cawood making the actual construction happen on the ground.

The current [state house](#), which was built in 1963 as the Alabama Highway Department Building, originally housed the Department of Transportation until 1985, according to the state. The Alabama Legislature moved into the upper floors as the Alabama State Capitol building underwent renovations, which prompted its renaming as the Alabama State House.

Though those renovations wrapped up in 1992, the Legislature is still occupying the upper floors of the building.

The \$400 million project — \$292 million of which is strictly for construction of the new building — is "on time and under budget," said Neah Scott, legislative counsel for RSA. The new Alabama State House will be the first State House in the U.S. to be built in decades, with the most recent before this one being the [Capitol Complex](#) in Tallahassee, Florida, completed in 1977.

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Scott said that the Legislature had been considering replacing the building for "a couple of decades at this point, because it doesn't fit their needs." Scott said RSA was a "natural partner" for management of the project, given that the organization has overseen the construction of other office buildings in downtown Montgomery that other public entities use.

The new 460,000 square-foot structure is being built behind the old one. After the new one is complete and the Legislature moves in, the old one will be demolished, and the area the old building occupied will become a greenspace.

RSA plans to lease the building to the Legislature, though Scott said there is an option for the Legislature to buy out the building earlier into their leasing agreement for a lump sum.

The most notable amenities the new seven-story structure will include, according to RSA, is expanded legislative chambers for the House and Senate on the fifth level, public galleries on sixth level, and six columns and a dome to make the building match other nearby buildings.

According to GMC, the new [State House](#) will feature improved accessibility, larger committee rooms and modern offices equipped with upgraded technology, which are enhancements that "will allow committee meetings and legislative sessions to be

live-streamed in real time," which they said is a step in "improving access and communication while also providing more space for visitors."

As far as what's already been done, Scott said most of the precast is up and most of the windows are in. The roof is nearly complete, and the workers have begun installing drywall on the lower floors, as well as running cable and wires. Scott said the new parking deck is usable already, but "should be fully finished before the end of session" this year.

Scott said that the new State House should be ready for members of the Legislature to move in by December 2026, and "operational and ready to go" by January and February for the regular Legislative sessions.

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