

THE TOILETEER

JULY 1, 2026

Introduction - The SOAG Issue

Welcome back, Toileteers! This is the 3rd installment of the American Restroom Association's monthly newsletter *The Toileteer*. Since 2015, July is officially recognized as Disability Pride Month! Many public restrooms are not designed with adequate equipment or space to aid restroom usage of disabled individuals. Accessible restrooms are central to the mobility, independence, and health of disabled Americans. A preferred restroom design from disability advocates are SOAGs. At the ARA, we campaign for the availability of clean, safe, and well designed public restrooms including the increased building and retrofitting of SOAGs.

What is a SOAG?

Single - Occupancy All-Gender (SOAG) Restrooms are private, lockable relief facilities featuring a toilet, sink, and handwashing supplies. SOAG is updated terminology for uni-sex or family restrooms. These facilities are used by a variety of people and may contain additional features like changing tables, accessibility fixtures (handrails, transfer benches, angled mirrors, etc.), and public health items (menstrual products, biohazard bin, Narcan, etc.).

Why aren't SOAGs more widely available?

Jonathan Katz-Ouziel proposed in 2023, "Single-user restrooms are less widespread than they could be for three reasons: costs, codes, and crime. First, they tend to be more expensive than typical, shared, gender-separated restrooms (though this is not always the case). In addition, many jurisdictions' plumbing codes... require men's and women's rooms with toilets at certain ratios for certain facilities. Finally, current bathroom formats evolved in the 1960s and 1970s as a way to prevent drug use and public sex, and though that change did not affect behavior, the legacy lives on."

2026 Flushies Award Winners!!!

The Flushy Awards are an annual awards program recognizing the individuals, cities, counties, agencies, and organizations doing the work of expanding access to public restrooms. The American Restroom Association is a proud founding sponsor and judge.

The 1st Annual Flushies Award Winners are -

- Municipality of the year: City of Ann Arbor
- Transit Excellence: LA Metro
- Innovator Award: Navilens
- Advocate of the Year: Councilmember Brianne Nadeau (100% of vote)
- Community Champion: Project for Sanitation Justice
- Breaking Taboo: Amaya "Papaya" Espinal / Winner of Love Island Season 7



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ACLU of Ohio Calls on Municipalities to Adopt Gender-Neutral Single-Occupancy Restroom Ordinances

COLUMBUS, OH — In the wake of Senate Bill 104's implementation, Ohio's anti-trans bathroom bill requiring K-12 and higher-education facility use aligned with sex assigned at birth, the ACLU of Ohio is urging municipalities statewide to designate all public single-occupancy bathrooms as gender-neutral.

Single-occupancy restrooms, defined as facilities with no more than one toilet, one sink, a urinal, and a locking door, protect trans and gender-nonconforming people, disabled individuals requiring aides, and caretakers accompanying children. Austin (2014), Atlanta (2021), and Cincinnati (unanimously, 2021) have already adopted such ordinances.

The policy complies with Ohio Building Code Section 2902.1.2, which states single-user facilities "shall be identified as being available for use by all persons regardless of their sex." SB 104 itself explicitly permits gender-neutral single-occupancy restrooms, underscoring the non-politicized nature of this reform.

"Passing a single-occupancy bathroom ordinance is a simple but powerful way for Ohio municipalities and local leaders across the state to show their support for LGBTQ community members, while also making a positive impact on the daily lives of all their residents."

Oregon's Capitol Renovation Include Largest SOAG Facilities of Any U.S. State Legislature

Oregon's \$598 million Capitol renovation project has added 16 multi-stall, all-user restrooms to the building's newly expanded rotunda halls — a practical solution to a spatial problem. Crucially, existing single-stall and sex-segregated options remain. Project director Jodie Jones explained that dividing facilities by sex, accessibility, and family use left insufficient space, prompting planners to reconsider: "What if we made several of them gender-neutral?"

Restroom access experts praised the model. A 2017 Ghent University study found gender-neutral setups can reduce women's wait times from over 6 minutes to under 90 seconds. University of Illinois Professor Emerita Kathryn Anthony called Oregon's Capitol a potential "shining star among state capitols in the U.S." The new restrooms have drawn bipartisan acceptance. The project aligns with a 2019 executive order by former Democratic Governor Kate Brown mandating all-user designations for single-stall state facilities. Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Stayton), who earlier this year backed legislation to divide school bathrooms by sex assigned at birth, ultimately came around. After consultation with women he stated chuckling, "All-user restroom — I like that."

ACLU of South Carolina Responds as Governor McMaster Signs Law Permitting Schools to Relegate Transgender Students to Porta-Potties

COLUMBIA, SC — Governor Henry McMaster has signed House Bill 4756 into law, mandating that transgender students in South Carolina public K-12 schools, colleges, and universities use restrooms and changing facilities incongruent with their gender identity. The bill includes a Senate amendment explicitly permitting schools to install temporary outdoor facilities, effectively porta-potties, as an accommodation for transgender students.



ACLU of South Carolina Executive Director Jace Woodrum stated: "Our lawmakers...want to treat transgender youth like outcasts and force them to use portable toilets outside."

H. 4756 threatens a 25% cut to state operations funding for noncompliant institutions and authorizes private lawsuits against schools.



The view from outside of new gender-neutral bathrooms added to the Oregon Legislature is pictured. (Photo by Shaanth Nanguneri/Oregon Capital Chronicle)

