

# UNDER THE DOME

## Clean out that closet

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By [Jeff Dufour](#)

“We’re in a town of suits,” says Dave Wenhold of Miller Wenhold Capitol Strategies. And yet he laments the fact that too many local residents trying to reenter the work force can’t get their hands on the proper attire.

“They need those first impressions,” he said.

That disconnect led him three years ago to create the Capitol PurSuit Drive, an effort to collect used suits and other business attire from members, staff and lobbyists. This year’s event, the third annual, takes place at the Rayburn foyer June 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The past two years, the drive has collected 7,000 and 6,500 suits and other articles of clothing, respectively, which were then distributed through Suited for Change, Gospel Rescue Ministries and other local charities.

This year he hopes to get even more. He knows there isn’t a shortage in the closets of Washingtonians.

“All my suits seem to shrink at the dry cleaners,” he joked. “It couldn’t be those lunches at the Capital Grille.”

He said the White House is holding a suit drive of its own June 5, the proceeds of which will be given to the Capitol PurSuit Drive. Last year, the White House contributed 400 suits.

Wenhold said there may even be a contest in the offing among lobby shops for who can rustle up the most suits. Stay tuned.

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