

THE TALLY SHEET

International Roll-Call 

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Greetings from the IRC President

The summary of International Roll-Call® Corporation's mission statement is "Legislative Service and Support Is Our Only Business." In today's legislative environment, governing bodies need a partner devoted to providing new technologies and excellent service to support their needs both in voting and the management of legislative activities. In keeping with this statement, IRC devotes all its resources and development to support legislative bodies.

IRC has been a part of the legislative process for almost 90 years, with one goal - to develop useful legislative tools to support different governing bodies. By focusing on this one commitment, we have taken the most up-to-date technology, through research and development, and given a quality solution to the legislative secretaries, clerks and members, in almost 70 legislative chambers, the United States House of Representatives, local governments, and past experience in various national parliaments.

We are a dedicated organization that has remained on the cutting edge of technology. We have designed our Voting System Applications and Legislative Management software systems to give everyone the security, dependability and individuality needed to perform all policy-making tasks at the highest level.

We are renewing our newsletter with the hope we can provide you with timely ideas, solutions, and updates about our complete legislative voting system and legislative management system and happenings from our clients.

On behalf of the entire IRC team, I wish each of you a successful year and Session. We are here to serve your legislative process and voting system needs.

Sincerely,

Bill

William C. Schaeffer
President, IRC

IRC Happenings in The Last Frontier!

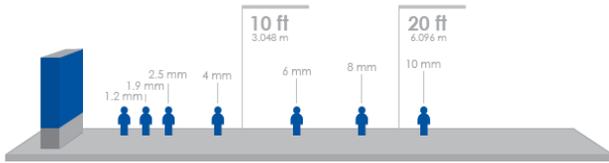
The Alaska Legislature paves the way as the State using the latest and greatest of all the chamber voting technologies offered by IRC. In recent months, the International Roll-Call® (IRC) team along with staff from the Alaska offices of Information



Technology, and the Senate Secretary and House Clerk collaboratively worked together to successfully upgrade the previous IRC voting chamber systems to the latest display, voting software, and member desk voting systems IRC has to offer.

The ITO Director, Tim Banaszak, reached out to IRC, in August 2018, on behalf of the Alaska Legislature with the desire to upgrade and modernize their current chamber environments. After discussing the overall goal for the future of the voting environments in both chambers with the ITO staff and the Senate and House leadership. The in-depth discussion provided the opportunity for IRC, using its 100+ years of collective legislative staff experience, to propose an upgrade that would allow for their existing 6.6mm LED display boards to be replaced with the new 1.9mm Daktronics LED Display solution, their existing VB6 based voting software be upgraded to new xmLegislator.NET voting software, and their SCU-9000 member desk System Control Unit be enhanced with the new VSCU-1000 system.

It is important to remember that Daktronics, IRC's long-time and industry leading video display partner, is one of the oldest and cutting-edge display manufacturers in the world offering over a dozen options for indoor display technology going as low as 0.5mm displays. The lower the pixel pitch (distance between each LED) the clearer the



resolution of the video content. However, IRC stresses and recommends to each client a pixel option that maximizes the lighting and room features unique to each legislative chamber to realize optimal performance. IRC always recommends a pixel format that is both economical and practical, and, from our experience there is no reason why a legislature would ever need to go sub 1.9mm.



Alaska House of Representatives new Daktronics 1.9mm LED

The photo above shows the installed 1.9mm LED display in the Alaska House of Representatives Chamber. The display was installed roughly six feet off the chamber floor. The picture reveals the clarity and high resolution of the display. Thus, IRC is hesitant to ever recommend a display pixel of sub 1.9mm, but will provide it, if requested by the client. It is important to stress that a sub 1.9mm display often will not provide any better visual clarity and will unnecessarily increase the client's installation and service costs.

In addition, the longevity of the 1.9mm LED display is rated for 100,000 hours at 100% brightness. The Alaska Senate and House of Representatives displays are currently running at 15% which lengthens the displays overall life and saves the legislature money in the long run. Further, these displays are fully capable of being utilized for the display of Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, and pictures and graphics, playing of video content, AVI sequences, etc. The versatility of these displays allows for the Alaska Legislature to be fully prepared for the future.

The IRC xmLegislator.NET voting software solution was developed using the positive and negative feedback from its predecessor, the VB6 voting software, coupled with the legislative knowledge of IRC staff, specifically the knowledge from IRC's President, Bill Schaeffer (Chief Clerk, Ohio House of Representatives, 1992-1994), and former IRC staff Debbie Ward (Assistant Clerk and Chief Clerk, Maine House of Representatives). The xmLegislator.NET voting software truly is a voting software system designed by legislative staff for legislative staff. It is important to note that IRC has added to its bank of former legislative staff by adding two former thirty-year legislative veterans in Deputy Clerk Diane Bell, Florida House of Representatives, and Deputy Clerk Jeff Finch, Virginia House of Delegates.

The Alaska project included providing the legislature with the VSCU-1000, the latest in IRC's home-run voting system control product line and most robust and reliable desk voting system currently offered. Vote integrity has always been IRC's primary concern. The new VSCU-1000 along with the new xmLegislator.NET voting software will ensure that every legislative vote is recorded correctly. The VSCU-1000 system is designed using RJ45 ports that can receive CAT5, CAT5e or CAT6 cables that are home run to each voting desk console (see picture below). The number of VSCU-1000 controllers depends on the number of chamber desk consoles needed.



Fortunately, during this installation both chambers had an existing spare CAT5 cable at each member desk for IRC to utilize. Thus, saving the legislature time and money. IRC was also able to add two additional button switches on each desk console which can be easily configured in the xmLegislator.NET software to provide a variety of options in the future such as Request to Speak, Summons, Page, Excused, Abstain, and specific functionality process requests like Speak to Amendment, Speak to Bill, etc.

The Alaska Chamber upgrade installation was scheduled for the month of June and all parties involved worked tirelessly and together to upgrade the Chambers as they balanced the project demands while a Special Session was convened and ongoing. Despite the many scheduling challenges presented, IRC and all the Alaskan staff involved completed the project on schedule and in time for the beginning of a second Special Session. The success of this installation could not have been achieved without the patience, determination and proactiveness of all parties involved. It was a true team effort!

As implemented in Alaska, it is important to remember that IRC is always open to working with a client to develop a multi-phase approach to an overall upgrade plan. The benefits of a multi-phase approach allow for the accommodation of a legislature's Session and Interim schedule, and any Special Sessions, and provides the ability to structure the project over a longer period of time utilizing multiple budget cycles.

Did You Know?

Since the first installation in 2008, IRC has successfully installed the new xmLegislator.NET voting software in over 60 different legislatures and is designed to stay current with the latest Windows operating system updates.

IRC: Professional Staff with Unmatched Quality of Support, and Legislative Experience

In all aspects of project development, installation, client responsiveness to requested updates, or technology driven upgrades, IRC's success is derived from the company's understanding and appreciation of the intricacies and desired efficiencies of the legislative process. IRC understands the legislative process from drafting to enactment and all the associated complex rules and procedures encountered in a political legislative environment. IRC realizes the importance of the legislative timetable and that any delay is detrimental to the overall operation.

The IRC staff is comprised of professionals that share this appreciation and their technological work products are examples of such familiarity and understanding of state legislature functions and processes. IRC knows the value of legislative staff experience and has actively employed such staff. Presently, IRC has a former Clerk (the IRC President), and two former Deputy Clerks on staff, and collectively the company has the benefit of almost a century of direct legislative process knowledge and experience. These legislative assets are applied to each project and facilitate the development of correct technological solutions that account for any chamber's unique legislative procedure.

Further, this foundation of legislative knowledge assures all legislative staff that their respective work products will be accurately represented for implementation in a digital environment. This collective knowledge of the legislative process allows these individuals to speak the legislative language, and understand the processes and complexities unique to a legislature and to pass this understanding to the IT and Software Development team.

In addition, IRC has a professional Information Technology, Software Development, Product Installation, and Training

team that possesses legislative experience and professional credentials gained from having worked with or for state governments, diverse private companies, multi-million-dollar projects, and as private consultants. These individuals provide an IRC IT team with a proven pedigree of over 250 years of legislative technology experience, passion for voting and legislative data integrity, and an adherence to creating a system that is reliable and efficient. Throughout IRC's successful technological development history, from product installations, iteration of system upgrades, and functional enhancements, our team has been in the forefront leading the way in the legislative technology realm.

IRC's collective foundation of legislative knowledge coupled with its technology proficiencies provide the essential elements to develop and implement successful products and solutions. Both with IRC staff and its system products, the client can be confident that IRC understands the unique responsibilities of each legislative office and staff person and how that role relates to the overall process. This understanding is an integral ingredient relied upon for the success of all our legislative solutions.

The following are components of IRC Voting System and Legislative Management System Applications. Please contact IRC for further information or visit the [IRC website](#).

IRC Voting System Applications

Voting Operator's System, Presiding Officer's System, Sound Control System, Page Control System, Voting System Remote Access, Voting System Remote Viewing, Script Assistant, Report Writer, Media Control System, U.S. Standard NTSC Video Interface, Wireless Voting System, Chamber Automation

IRC Legislative Management System Modules

Bill Drafting and Tracking; Amendment Drafting and Tracking; Legislative Status Actions; Bill/Resolution Assignment, Inquiry, and Maintenance; Journal; Calendar; Messages and Communications; Engrossment; Enrolling; Amend/Enroll Module; Committee Notice, Meetings, Agenda, and Support; Status; and Reports

IRC STAFF CONTACT AND EMAIL INFORMATION

Bill Schaeffer, President,
bschaeffer@roll-call.com
Tyler Schaeffer, Vice President,
tyler@roll-call.com
David Ward, Jr., Operations Manager,
dawjr@roll-call.com
Ryan Babcock, Senior Voting Technician,
rbabcock@roll-call.com
Diane Bell, Legislative Liaison and Analyst,
dbell@roll-call.com
Joe Erhardt, Voting Software Developer,
jerhardt@roll-call.com
Robert Feidt, Director of Software Development,
rfeidt@roll-call.com
Jeff Finch, Director of Legislative Management System,
jfinch@roll-call.com
Chris Hayes, Developer,
chayes@roll-call.com
Bryan Hogan, Senior Product Specialist,
bryan@roll-call.com
Howard Jorenby, Senior Engineer,
hjorenby@roll-call.com
Igor Milchman,
Senior Legislative Management System Developer,
igor@roll-call.com
Mary Passaris, Office Manager,
mpassaris@roll-call.com
Richard Physioc,
Legislative Management System Analyst & Installer,
rphysioc@roll-call.com
Dan Sanderson, Senior Chamber Automation Developer,
dsanderson@roll-call.com
Alex Schaeffer, Technician,
alex@roll-call.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE 2020 EVENTS

May 1-3 ASLCS Spring Business Meeting, Hyatt Regency Cleveland at the Arcade, Cleveland, OH
Aug. 10-13 [NCSL Legislative Summit](#), Indianapolis, IN
Sept. 20-24 ASLCS, Westin Portland Harborview Hotel, Portland, ME
Oct. 7-9 [Staff Hub ATL 2020](#) (LSPA, LRL, LINCOS, NLPES, NALFO, RELACS), Atlanta, GA
Dec. 8-12 [NCSL Capitol Forum](#), Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

