

Legislative Automation with IRC's 3rd Reading Software

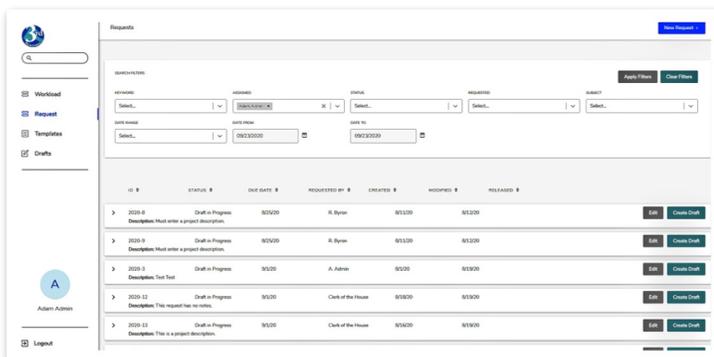
IRC's expertise and legislative pedigree uniquely position our company to design and offer an innovative solution that will complement the legislative process. IRC is cognizant of the legislative timetable and realizes how valuable members and staff time is during Session. That is why IRC is striving to create a product that focuses on automating the redundant and enriching the process for efficient results.

The IRC goal is simple - we want you to be able to provide your staff and members a solution that allows them to focus on legislative essentials, from drafting to enactment, and the creation of the legislative record with all supporting documents.

IRC has a proud tradition of over 65 years of Legislative systems innovation and support. We have provided previous complete legislative management products but have tabled that design in favor of a modern modular based Legislative Management System called 3rd Reading.



- Our commitment to customer service and satisfaction has led IRC to become the number one trusted partner in over 70 legislatures across the country.
- In 2009 we introduced a comprehensive legislative management system to support the Legislative members and staff in Vermont.
- In 2014 we built upon the base application and created an enhanced version for the New Hampshire Legislature.
- Our next generation of this application 3rd Reading is under development and is scheduled for deployment to be used by the Alabama Legislature during the 2022 Regular Session.



- This iteration of the product is being built from the experience, expertise, and legislative knowledge from our past on a modern technical architecture to truly deliver a Legislative management system for the modern Legislature.

3rd Reading® will consist of multiple modules including Configuration, Drafting and Document Support for Bills, Resolutions, and Budgets, Indexing, Committee Support, Calendar, Journal, Messaging, Engrossing, and Enrolling

along with several other that each cater to a unique aspect of the legislative process. *(continued on page 3)*

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I hope this edition of the IRC Tally Sheet finds you and your family well. As we begin to transition to Fall with crisp cool air and pumpkin spice in all we smell, we stand hopeful, that everything will indeed be nice. However, as we read and listen to the news, the reality is that we find our schools operating differently, both virtual and in person, restaurants are opening with modified serving formats, retail businesses continue to struggle, and state legislatures are wondering how they will meet in their ongoing Special Sessions or their 2021 Regular Session. The COVID-19 crisis has affected us all throughout the United States and across the world. These times will permanently reshape our daily "normal" while continuing to challenge us all to rise like the phoenix from the chaos, ashes, and uncertainty, and seize upon the unfolding opportunities for innovation, adaptation, and change.

We here at International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) have seen change within our ranks since our last edition. Two of IRC's team have chosen the road to retirement and we salute both Richard Physioc and Diane Bell, offering our best wishes as they head towards the beach, mountains, or wherever life takes them to enjoy time with their families and do things that bring smiles and happiness to their daily lives.

As I said, with challenges come opportunities for innovation and IRC is always seeing a world that is like a glass "half-full." IRC has the success and well-being of our state legislative institutions at the forefront of its future and long-range planning. We continue to develop and implement new products like our Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System (installed or scheduled for installation in 13 Legislative Chambers), and 3rd Reading Legislative Management System. Our staff is ever vigilant in working to ensure that the work of the state legislatures continue and can adapt to the demands and needs that confront us.

The road before us will continue to have bumps along the way, but together as partners, we will collaboratively work together and our personal resolve and strength will allow each of us to not only endure but to rise to new heights of achievement. An example of which was the recent successful NCSL Base Camp virtual conference that we were honored to participate in as an exhibitor in the virtual exhibit hall. The program and the orchestration of the sessions providing quality content and opportunities for networking and dialogue were superb. Kudos to NCSL!!

As I've said before and echo now, all of us that work in and support the legislative process are strong, determined, caring, and creative individuals. Together, we will continue to overcome each and every challenge. Together, we will continue to move democracy forward.

Sincerely,

Bill Schaeffer, President

International Roll-Call® Corporation

Award Congratulations!

IRC sends a special shoutout and congratulations to the following legislative staff that were recently recognized by their respective staff sections in receiving an NCSL 2020 Legislative Staff Achievement Award:

**Susan W. Kannarr, Chief Clerk,
Kansas House of Representatives**

**Bernadette McNulty, Chief Assistant
Secretary, California Senate**

**Matthew Romei, Chief of Police,
Capitol Police Department, Vermont**

**Derek E. Hamilton, Sergeant-at-Arms and
Chief, Alabama House Security Force**

**Kevin G. Moore, Vermont Office
Legislative Information Technology**

**Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and
Review Commission**

In addition, IRC salutes all other recipients of this year's Staff Achievement Awards.

Our state legislatures are well served by your dedication and support!

(3rd Reading continued from page 1)

Our Approach - "To be able to deliver a product that can be customized to each individual state legislature or chamber we need to have a solution that can easily adapt and scale to meet the growing needs of any legislature." Understanding the legislative process is the key to any technology solution, which is why IRC's extensive experience in the field and personnel with legislative backgrounds provides a distinct advantage to developing and implementing the 3rd Reading® product. To schedule a demonstration, please contact us at our home office. In the meantime, scan the QR code and visit our website for an better look at the 3rd Reading product. 



WHAT'S COOKING AT IRC?

White Bean Chicken Chili

David A. Ward, Jr.

Client Relations
& Operations Support



Ingredients:

1-2 tablespoons olive oil
1 red or orange bell pepper, chopped
1 onion, chopped
3 cloves of garlic, minced
2-3 cans White Great Northern beans, undrained (or Cannellini beans)
2 teaspoons cumin
1 ½ teaspoons oregano
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper (or more to taste)
6 cups of chicken broth
3 cups cooked chicken, chopped (about 3-4 boneless chicken breasts, boiled or roasted)
12 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
Kosher or sea salt and pepper (to taste)
Red pepper flakes (to taste) sprinkled in individual servings
Sour cream (optional), dollop with individual servings (or plain Greek yogurt).

Instructions:

Boil or roast boneless, skinless chicken breasts until cooked through. Chop chicken to bite-sized portions. » In a Dutch oven, over medium heat, add olive oil and coat. » Add bell pepper and onion. Sauté until onion softens. If you like it extra spicy, add in chopped jalapenos or preferred peppers such as Fresno, habanero, etc. » Add in dry spices; cumin, oregano, cayenne. » Add minced garlic and stir into peppers and onions, sauté for about 30 seconds to a minute. » Add in White Great Northern beans, chicken broth, cooked chopped chicken. » Bring to a gentle/medium simmer and simmer for about 30 minutes. » Add in cheese, dash of salt and pepper, stir. Keep at a gentle simmer. » Check taste for preferred seasoning level. » Simmer for another 30 minutes or so, until desired thickness of chili is achieved. » Serve with option additional red pepper flakes and/or dollop of sour cream (or plain Greek yogurt).

The IRC and Daktronics Alliance

The strategic alliance formed between International Roll-Call® (IRC) and Daktronics in 2004 was truly a watershed moment in the history not only of both U.S.-based corporations but for the legislative technology field in general. This partnership set in motion the ability for IRC to offer the best display technology for legislative environments; and brought IRC's cutting-edge Voting System Software and Legislative Management Solutions to a greater number of Legislatures all around the country.

As a result of this alliance, we have established a vast network of Daktronics professionals to add another layer of legislative support throughout the entire United States – ensuring on-site response within 24 hours or less. Working together we have made significant changes to the LED voting displays designed for the state legislatures, including improved reliability, streamlined control equipment profile, and reduced costs.

For a little bit of information about Daktronics, they are the world's largest supplier of large screen video displays, electronic scoreboards, LED text and graphic displays, related control systems and services. Put simply, Daktronics has manufactured state-of-the-art displays for nearly 50 years – taking countless products from design, to production, to end of life. Each of Daktronics' products consists of common components they select, including LED modules, power supplies, signal distributors, video processors, and media players.

No other display provider comes close to Daktronics depth and breadth of experience with large, unique, and complex display projects. Daktronics fully understands the substantial management of resources required to successfully execute a project no matter the size or complexity.

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Daktronics has manufacturing facilities in South Dakota and Minnesota



New York Assembly LED Voting Displays



Georgia House of Representatives LED Voting Display

A Fond Farewell

After giving years of service to International Roll-Call® and to state legislatures and local governments, two of IRC's key team members are hanging up their spurs and retiring.

Richard Physioc, as Senior Product Specialist, has a distinguished history with IRC, having been involved in the conception and early development of both xmLegislator™ Voting Software and the comprehensive "back office" Legislative Management System. Additionally, he spent time with customers, both supporting these existing products and honoring requests for additional functionality, particularly in Nebraska, New Hampshire, Mississippi, Vermont, and Jacksonville, FL. His easy-going demeanor and steadfast work ethic will be missed by his colleagues and customers alike, but we wish him well in his retirement.

Take it easy, Richard. You've earned it!



Diane Bell served the Florida Legislature for many years and has always been an active member of the American Society for Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS), which made her the perfect person to come on board as Legislative Liaison. Diane's many responsibilities included coordinating and setting up IRC's presence at meetings such as the annual ASLCS Professional Development Seminar and the NCSL Summit. She also worked tirelessly to represent IRC's vendor membership and vested interests in the success of legislative technologies through these meetings and organizations.

Anyone who knows Diane is aware that she is a kind person and hard worker with a lively streak a country mile wide. We shall miss her deeply ingrained knowledge of the legislative process and also her moxy! Enjoy retirement, Diane, and save a spot on the beach for us.

(IRC-Daktronics continued from page 4)

Both IRC and Daktronics support the direct manufacturing of or the sanctioned manufacturing of their products in the USA. The adherence to this philosophy significantly controls the quality of production and provided solutions offered. IRC and Daktronics do not rely on someone else to produce the product to our high-standard specifications. This quality assurance is becoming very rare in today's market as even the biggest names are not producing their products in their own factories. Daktronics has nearly 1 million sq. ft. of manufacturing space in Brookings and Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Redwood Falls, Minnesota. In addition, Daktronics invests over \$25M annually in product development. The Daktronics' in-house Reliability Lab provides product quality feedback to IRC and Daktronics engineers and service personnel, driving them to continually improve display designs and increase product reliability in the field.

This enables IRC and Daktronics to learn about real world product and component risks of which most of the industry is not even aware. The proactive approach to manufacturing has allowed our engineers the opportunity to remain years ahead of the competition and makes IRC and Daktronics confident that we are providing superior and reliable products right now – and will continue to do so in the years to come. 



Chris Hayes, Software Engineer

The IRC team is fortunate to have Chris on board along with his almost 25 years of Information Technology and programming experience. Armed with his software development skillset, Chris provides critical support and development for the xmLegislator™ Voting Software as well as a number of ancillary IRC products such as Vote Reporter and Script Assistant. Before joining IRC as a Software Engineer, Chris had a successful career with stints working in applications programming, system administration, and user support for a state agency of Virginia and several federal contractors.



For the past five years Chris has been an accomplished ballroom dancer whose favorite dances are Waltz, Rumba, Night Club Two Step, Salsa, West Coast Swing, and Bolero. Once the COVID-19 pandemic is over he intends to return to teaching ballroom dancing locally. When not dancing, Chris enjoys reading, playing video games, and relaxing at home.



Feeding Young Minds

IRC's President Bill Schaeffer and Director of Client Relations and Legislative Process Consultant Jeff Finch recently spoke to a Christopher Newport University Political Science State and Local Government class. Bill and Jeff presented their background as a former Clerk and Deputy Clerk and how important it is to fully understand every legislature's legislative process, rules, and procedures before presenting a legislative technology solution recommendation. They covered the various voting system and display products offered by IRC to state legislatures and how IRC has been helping state legislatures continue their Regular and Special Sessions with the new Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System.



Virtual Voting Console (VVC) Update

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the summer, the IRC team has been very busy submitting proposals to interested Legislatures and individual Legislative Chambers for IRC’s remote voting solution: the Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System. There continues to be much uncertainty for our state legislatures as well as our schools, colleges, private business, and in our overall daily lives. The IRC staff is ever vigilant in working to ensure that the work of the state legislatures continues and can adapt to the needs of the virtual environment required as a result of the pandemic.

As you know, many states have already begun adapting and innovating so that the work of the legislature may continue either in extended Regular Sessions or in Special Sessions. Varied means to hold virtual sessions, both Chamber and Committee, have been used throughout the country. Prior to the COVID-19 nationwide shutdown, IRC began developing a Virtual Voting Console Chamber and Committee solution for state legislatures. Since then and throughout the Spring and Summer, IRC has responded to 38 VVC requests for proposals, which have resulted, at present, in the installation of VVC Chamber and/or Committee systems in 11 Legislative Chambers.

Legislative Chambers with VVC Installations are:

- Connecticut House of Representatives**
- Maine Senate and Maine House Representatives**
- Maryland Senate**
- Michigan House of Representatives**
- Montana Senate and Montana House of Representatives**
- North Dakota Senate and North Dakota House of Representatives**
- Oklahoma House of Representatives**
- South Carolina House of Representatives**

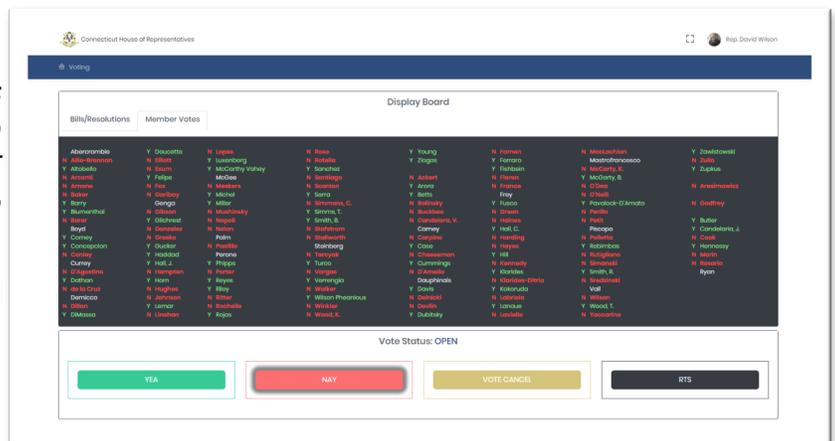
IRC continues to work with other legislatures interested in the VVC System and was privileged to receive the following comments regarding the VVC solution from the Honorable Darek Grant, Secretary of the Maine Senate and the Honorable Gary Randall, Clerk of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Michigan House

It couldn't have worked better! Thanks to you and your team for getting us up and running in such a short time. I appreciate the relationship we have developed over the years.

Gary Randall

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Dixie Cups Were Breakout Startup of 1918 Flu Pandemic

"In 1907, Boston attorney Lawrence Luellen created a cup. It wasn't made of glass or metal—the norm at the time. Instead, it was made of paper so it could be thrown away after use. While not earth-shattering in our current context, in the early 1900s there were no disposable paper tissues or paper towels. A cup made of paper was a novel idea, one with a noble goal: Luellen hoped his paper cups could help stop the spread of disease.

What makes this century-old startup story especially poignant today is that Dixie cups, as they came to be known, achieved only moderate growth for 10 years until the Spanish flu of 1918 made disposable cups a necessity and helped the Dixie cup become a household name. In 2012, Smithsonian Magazine even called the Dixie cup a "life-saving technology" that helped stop the spread of disease.

When Luellen invented the paper cup, which he originally named the "Health Kup," the timing wasn't great either.

Communal metal drinking cups known as "tin dippers" were commonplace. A single "tin dipper" could be shared by hundreds of different people. If that sounds gross, it was. But scientists were only just beginning to understand how contagion was spread.



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(VVC Update continued from page 7)

Maine Senate

The virtual voting system went perfectly! I was a little nervous to have members use the tablet and system without an orientation beforehand, but they did well. The system was well done to replicate our board display and desk voting buttons, so it was familiar to the members. I had many members come up to me after session and share how impressed they were with the system.

Even though the preparations for any sort of session are very difficult during this pandemic with all the safety precautions and space logistics, setting up and using the IRC virtual voting system was the easiest thing we had to deal with! Normally we don't say that when it comes to a new technology.

I like its flexibility for us too as we continue to head into uncertain times. We used it in the House Chamber this week. In December we will likely use it at the Augusta Civic Center. And, maybe at some point we will even use it back in the Senate Chamber. That is nice to know it can work wherever we need to adapt and go.

Great job to everyone at IRC who made this system! Thank you for all your help and assistance with it. I will definitely encourage others to consider using it.

Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

The VVC system is a virtual vote entry interface to the IRC xmLegislator™ Voting Software. It is designed to provide a solution with low costs, ease of use for members and staff, quick implementation, and seamless integration with consistent functionalities utilized in the xmLegislator™ Voting Software.

For additional information on the VVC systems or any other IRC products, please do not hesitate to reach out. In the meantime, visit our website ROLL-CALL.COM for an overview of the VVC System. 🌐

Things to Consider as You Support Your Employees Who are Working Remotely

Here at IRC, just like with many offices around the country, there are so many of our professional employees now working from home. These Work From Home (WFH) employees present all offices with new staff considerations that are at the forefront of the healthy workplace discussion. Some of these focus on maintaining a healthy mind and body, proper workspace, professional growth, and rewards. The following excerpts and related information is borrowed from a report entitled, "The Top 25 Perks to Support Your People In a Remote-First World."

Healthy Mind

On one side, it's never been harder for managers to support employees' wellbeing and keep track of tasks. On the other side, it's never been harder for employees to show their progress and contributions. This situation causes anxiety on both sides. Management needs to have empathy for employees dealing with such a level of pressure and act upon it. For example, managers can reach out to staff to more regularly check-in and make sure all are on the same page with expectations, timelines, communication methods and offer support for any special considerations that may be required to accomplish the work due to increased demands at home from expectations of being on call 24/7 or at least more than the usual eight-hour workday. These "workplace" expectations coupled with "home" demands such as the need to monitor children's virtual school participation, inability to separate the demands of home from the demands of work or at least unable to have defined workspace creates new pressures that managers must be cognizant of and that could require modified schedules and reporting mechanisms to track work projects.

Healthy Body

With increased levels of stress, come bad eating and drinking habits. This leads to more stress, more junk food, more drinking, and the circle never ends. Employers can decrease the friction of eating healthy and exercising by removing the financial barrier and offering financial incentives for gym memberships or healthy food delivery services. This investment in employee wellness will be repaid 10 times by creating healthier and happier employees.

Work from Home Setup

According to recent studies, companies that decide to go digital by default are saving on average \$10,000 per employee annually on physical space and other costs. But remote employees will need to pay for increased home internet usage, ergonomic chairs, comfortable workspace, and other supplies. Great companies are stepping up to support their employees! How you decide to treat your employees through this shift to remote work will define your business culture for decades.

Professional Growth

Most of the best companies have a thriving culture of learning and curiosity. Maintaining a healthy learning culture and opportunities to expand an employee's knowledge base can reap direct benefits back to the organization. It is important for an organization to plan for and support their employees' continuous education. You might ask yourself: "What happens if I invest in my people and they leave?" Well, what happens if you don't and they stay?

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(WFH Support continued from page 9)

Rewards

Are we that different than when we were kids? We all enjoy being complimented for a job well done. We want to feel valued and receive signs of appreciation when we go the extra mile. As most employees work in tougher conditions, it's never been more important to foster a culture of recognition and appreciation.

Here are some creative ways to say 'Thank you' in a fun and personalized way.

A wine tasting experience - treat your team to fine wines from all over the world. Delivered by the glass, they can taste new wines in a fun way. This is a great reward to provide to an employee who deserves recognition, achieved an accomplishment, or simply someone you wish to reward for being a great team member. [getvinebox.com is an idea.]

UberEats.com will allow you to treat your team to their favorite food, by allowing them to order whatever they'd like through UberEats. From fast food, brunch, lunch, dinner to groceries and more. You can order online or through the app. Who wouldn't appreciate a lunch or three as a reward?

Urthbox.com is a reward idea that provides the recognized team member with a monthly collection of healthy Non-GMO and organic snacks. Urthbox will send a monthly box of Full-Size products from trustworthy brands perfect for the home or the office.

An alternative to a gym membership "thank you" is a subscription to classpass.com. Classpass.com provides workouts that can be done anywhere. Options range from bootcamp to virtual meditation. And the freemium model gives you a free subscription that provides access to 4,000 on-demand workout videos.

We are sure there are many other creative ways to reward employees as we define the new "normal." 🌍

(Dixie Cups continued from page 8)

When Dixie cups originally failed to resonate with consumers, Luellen and Moore refocused their efforts on businesses. They developed a free-standing dispenser that was sold to businesses, which could sell a Dixie cup of water for a penny. Once a business bought a dispenser, Luellen and Moore could depend on revenue from the repurchase of cups. This helped the company survive during what was a slow period of adoption. It also introduced Dixie cups to thousands of workers who would soon begin buying them in stores for home use.

Dixie cups faced a similar situation when the Spanish flu tore through the U.S. in 1918. Suddenly, drinking out of a disposable cup became a matter of life and death. In response, Luellen and Moore launched an advertising campaign to drive the point home and rebranded from the Health Kup to the more memorable Dixie cup in 1919.

"No matter how clean it may look, the soda glass is a common carrier of disease," one 1920 ad read. "Uncounted lips touch it. Uncounted germs cluster and breed upon its rim—the germs of influenza, pneumonia, diphtheria, and worse."

As awareness of the health risks grew, more states also banned the use of "tin dippers," and this made Dixie cups even more popular. With the success of Dixie cups came other disposable products, such as Kleenex in 1924 and paper towels in 1931." 🌍

The above excerpt is from an article that was published 07-07-20 on fastcompany.com, written by Kevin Lelands. "This is the Sanitary Age" [Photo: Lafayette College/Wikimedia Commons]

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