

# ★ THE TALLY SHEET ★

International Roll-Call® 

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## IRC's xmOverlayCG: Elevating Legislative Video with Text and Graphics

One of the most recent innovations to be added to the xmLegislator™ suite of products is the xmOverlayCG system, which is a simplified character generation system designed to integrate with the xmLegislator™ Voting Software. The xmLegislator™ system's foundation allows the xmOverlayCG to quickly render and process the required voting system information to overlay on the television or camera system video feed.

International Roll-Call® Corporation has many years of experience interfacing to a wide variety of video character generator systems that are used to place text and graphics over video. Overlays are very useful for legislative video broadcasts because character generators are capable of adding the bill number, bill sponsor, name of person speaking, motion pending, vote totals, etc. in real time over the video. The resulting video becomes significantly more informational and enhances transparency of operations to the general public.

With the excessive cost of the current third-party character generator offerings such as Compix and Chyron coupled with their lack of real-time functionality for Legislative Chamber applications, IRC elected to design the IRC xmOverlayCG specifically oriented to and customizable for the broadcast environment of State Legislatures. The xmOverlayCG is a complete hardware/software package, consisting of a computer with a video card running IRC's xmOverlay software. The xmOverlayCG is designed to integrate seamlessly with IRC's xmLegislator™ Voting Software and is uniquely equipped to interface with and extract the desired xmLegislator™ data in an expedient and efficient manner; however, it is also capable of interfacing with other software and applications as well.

The xmOverlay software has two components. The first component is a designer tool that is used to configure the desired information and images that are to be displayed, and the display board location of where they are to be displayed, over the top of a video feed. The second component of the xmOverlay software is the player component that accepts text and commands, calls up a template, and overlays text and graphics over the live video as dictated by the currently selected template.

With the addition of xmOverlayCG, as part of the suite of IRC voting hardware and software applications, a legislature can be fully confident that the technology being utilized will provide for their current and future video technology needs. 



xmOverlayCG Video—Chamber Status Layout Example



**Scan QR code or visit our [www.roll-call.com](http://www.roll-call.com) for more information!**

## *A Letter from the President*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2021. International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) has big opportunities in front of us this year and we are kicking things off with renewed energy and direction. With that, I extend a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you celebrated the start of 2021 in good spirits with family and friends. Now that we are into the New Year, it's good to look ahead to what this year may bring us.

Moving forward, I am reminded of a quote by Albert Einstein, "learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Needless to say, 2020 caused us to live those words to their full meaning. In 2020, we were faced with numerous obstacles and challenges, which were embraced with innovative developments in less-than-ideal conditions. Nonetheless, we have grown stronger in the face of adversity. Together, we achieved successes steering state legislatures and legislative process operations through tumultuous times. To ensure that the legislative process was not stopped, we successfully deployed the IRC Virtual Voting Console (VVC) system in 24 Legislative Chambers with more installations pending. Our virtual voting system allows legislatures to seamlessly continue their voting processes as they meet in different environments from within the Capitol, or remotely.

IRC proactively stepped up and addressed the needs of legislatures with an innovative yet simple approach that allowed them to continue meeting in a safe, socially distanced environment. The success of the VVC is a shining example of how the IRC team, with their legislative process and technical skills, responds to the needs of legislative leadership and administrative personnel in addressing crisis situations with positive results. Of course, there's much work ahead. It's no secret that COVID and the residual impact is still with us and we must continue to analyze the situation and be ready to expand this proven technological remedy with even more customizable functionality.

In short, the current circumstances are all quite challenging, but no matter the obstacle, we at IRC never lose sight of our priority: to be strong and financially sustainable with innovative legislative system support that puts the Legislature, its members and staff at the heart of all we do. We assist our clients in their legislative technological needs by providing 24/7 support, system configurability and functionality if possible, and offer a range of clear and simple legislative voting and process products.

I would like to thank you all for your loyalty and dedication during these challenging times. The year ahead will bring us new challenges and opportunities, but I am committed, as is the entire IRC team, to be your partner, stay focused on our priorities, and always put our clients first.

In closing, I encourage you to remember the words of C. S. Lewis, "[t]here are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." In the days ahead please find time to rest, rejuvenate and renew. Together, we will gain strength and successfully conquer any and all obstacle that confront us in 2021.

With sincere appreciation,  
Bill, President

## IRC 2021 Session Support Stands Ready

As each of you approach your respective 2021 Regular Session, IRC is fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead. Please be assured that the IRC team of professional staff are ready to respond to any voting system, voting display, or legislative management system need or issue you may encounter during the Session. As a reminder, we would like to reiterate the following support information:

### Normal Office Hours

A KEY element of our maintenance support and service agreements is access to IRC technicians in the event of hardware or software related issues. IRC's corporate offices are open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST). You may call the main IRC office number at 804-730-9600.

### Remote System Support Service

Using standard hardware and software, Legislative staff can arrange for an IRC representative to connect directly into the voting system and chamber/committee automation systems (with customer-enabled security) to assist in the diagnosis of any reported system problems. Remote service is a standard support practice of IRC, and remote access must be available during the Session hours of operation. IRC currently provides GoTo Meeting or GoTo Assist application access and support. These programs can assist in supporting Legislative staff by allowing an IRC representative to have the ability to assist with service, support and/or training on the voting system and chamber/committee automation systems.

### 24 Hour Session Support Service

In an effort to continue our commitment to provide all IRC clients with around-the-clock 24/7 support access, please use the following list of contact information for any issues with your voting displays, member voting stations, voting software or other voting hardware components.



#### Hardware Issue Call:

Tyler Schaeffer  
(Office) (804) 730-9600 Ext. 105  
(Mobile) (804) 239-5964  
Email - tyler@roll-call.com

Howard Jorenby  
(Office) (804) 730-9600 Ext. 206  
(Mobile) (804) 347-7936  
Email – hjorenby@roll-call.com

#### Software Issue Call:

Robert Feidt  
(Office) (804) 730-9600 Ext. 201  
(Mobile) (651) 705-2064  
Email - rfeidt@roll-call.com

Ryan Babcock  
(Office) (804) 730-9600 Ext. 104  
(Mobile) (254) 383-4670  
Email – rbabcock@roll-call.com

#### Legislative Management System Issue Call:

Bryan Hogan  
(Office) (804) 730-9600 Ext. 107  
(Mobile) (804) 380-7864  
Email – bryan@roll-call.com

*(continued on page 4)*

In the  
**Spotlight**



### Rita Barlow, Product Manager, Legislative Management Solutions

As IRC's Product Manager of Legislative Management Solutions, Rita's focus is to work with the development team to manage the communication of and adherence to all technical requirements for all projects for the Legislative Management Solutions division. She is presently spearheading the project management of the development of IRC's new comprehensive legislative management system product, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.

Prior to joining the IRC team, Rita worked at Data Blueprint as a Data Engineer/Project Manager and Ippon Technologies as a Scrum Master/Technical Manager/Consultant. She has over ten years' experience in software development and documentation, implementation, testing, user manual creation, training, and support, all well-honed skills which she brings to the IRC product development process. Her career so far has provided her experience in the government public sector and commercial and healthcare industries, always stressing and exploring continuous improvement and on-budget product delivery.

Rita received her undergraduate degree in Computer Science from Longwood University and a MS Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

She is an avid photographer and is the owner of Good Karma Photography named after her husband of 10 years, Josh and their first dog together, Karma. A devout dog lover (always kisses her dog goodnight), she now has Mako, who is a Catahoula Leopard Hound, 3 years old - full of energy, loves adventures, and time at Rita's favorite venue, the beaches of the Outer Banks. In addition to her love of the beach, Rita enjoys hunting, snowboarding, and hiking. A sports fan to boot, she cheers on the Washington Football Team (But not the owner!), Washington Capitals hockey team (Go CAPS), and is an Atlanta Braves Fan (Almost had it).

*(Session Support continued from page 3)*

For **NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE**, during the normal corporate office hours for IRC, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, please use the office main telephone number 804-730-9600 and request one of the staff listed below.

For **EMERGENCY SERVICE**, please use the IRC toll-free number 800-730-9602 or contact any of the staff directly in the order listed.

In addition, IRC key personnel can be reached via the contact information on the previous page. These staff are accessible to you at these contact numbers and email during both regular hours and after hours (24/7). For either a voicemail message or email, please provide as much detail as possible relevant to the situation requiring the contact and please provide your contact information or alternative staff contact information so that the issue can be addressed in a prompt and timely manner.

# IRC's Turnkey Audio-Visual Solutions

The technologies that are employed to support Legislatures are many and varied including the critical elements of the voting system and voting consoles, high resolution and functioning displays, comprehensive legislative management from drafting to enactment and all processes in between, as well as audio and video systems that serve to ensure transparency and the sharing of legislative operations to the public and the media.

As many of our customers know, IRC is a proven turnkey solutions provider. What some may not know, however, is that IRC's ability to offer comprehensive technology solutions extends beyond the many facets of the voting system genre to include both audio systems and video systems as well. This is accomplished through IRC's partnership with Code3AV based in Richmond, Virginia. Having worked with Code3AV on a number of projects, IRC has created a process by which both companies can marshal the resources and knowledge of our respective areas to design and install top-flight audio-visual systems for the legislative environment.

One of our most challenging and rewarding projects in the field of sound system improvement and replacement was IRC's work with Code3AV in the New York Assembly. There, over the course of two phases, IRC was able to engineer and provide a unified environment for voting, request to speak, and microphone control. The project included everything from the replacement of obsolete audio equipment such as speakers and digital mixers, resulting in a custom programmed mix-minus audio system that is heavily integrated with the xmLegislator™ Voting Software. As part of the latter phase of the project, IRC and Code3AV worked together to design a custom member voting console that incorporated new electronics for not only the voting system but the sound and Request to Speak System, all packaged together and integrated for maximum efficiency of communication and control between the audio system and the voting system. *(continued on page 6)*



**NY Assembly Member Voting Console with Voting, Audio, and Power Functions**



## Check Out the IRC Website for Product Information and More

The IRC Website [roll-call.com](http://roll-call.com) presents information on all of our current products and can be viewed under the Menu Tab Legislative Solutions ([roll-call.com/legislative-solutions](http://roll-call.com/legislative-solutions)). Here you can access information relative to xmLegislator™ Voting software, Member Voting Consoles, Chamber Display Boards (provided in an alliance with Daktronics Corporation), 3rd Reading Legislative Management System, Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System, and other legislative solutions.

In addition, within the About Us menu tab ([roll-call.com/about](http://roll-call.com/about)) you may access information about IRC's history, the IRC Team, the Tally Sheet newsletter (under Roll-Call 411 - [roll-call.com/about/roll-call-411](http://roll-call.com/about/roll-call-411)), and client-specific product installs accessible via the Where in the USA is IRC? map or list links ([roll-call.com/about/where-in-the-usa-is-irc](http://roll-call.com/about/where-in-the-usa-is-irc)).



**French Onion Soup**  
**Judy Finch**  
(submitted by Jeff Finch)

**Ingredients:**

- 6 lbs yellow onions sliced thin
- 6 Tbsp butter
- Pinch of salt
- 2 Tsp thyme
- 1 Tsp cracked pepper
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 5 cups beef broth (preferably made with Better Than Bullion)
- 16-24 oz grated Gruyere cheese
- Loaf of French bread
- Olive Oil

## WHAT'S COOKING AT IRC?

**Instructions:**

- Melt butter on high heat in Dutch oven.
- Add onions with thyme and pepper to melted butter.
- Turn down heat to medium and sautee onions for 30-60 minutes until cooked down to a light caramel brown color. Scrape bottom every few min to avoid onions sticking or burning.
- Add flour to cooked down onions and stir for a few seconds.
- Stir in wine to onions and cook until liquid is absorbed.
- Stir in beef broth to onions.
- Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Adjust taste with additional pepper or salt if needed.
- For croutons, toast thin slices of French bread drizzled with olive oil in 400 degree oven until light brown.
- Ladle onion soup into oven proof soup bowls.
- Add crouton(s) on top and cover with grated cheese. Place soup bowls in 450 degree oven until cheese is bubbling and lightly browned.
- Serve with extra croutons on the side.



**Iowa Legislature Automated Camera System with Joystick and Software Control**

*(IRC Turnkey continued from page 5)*

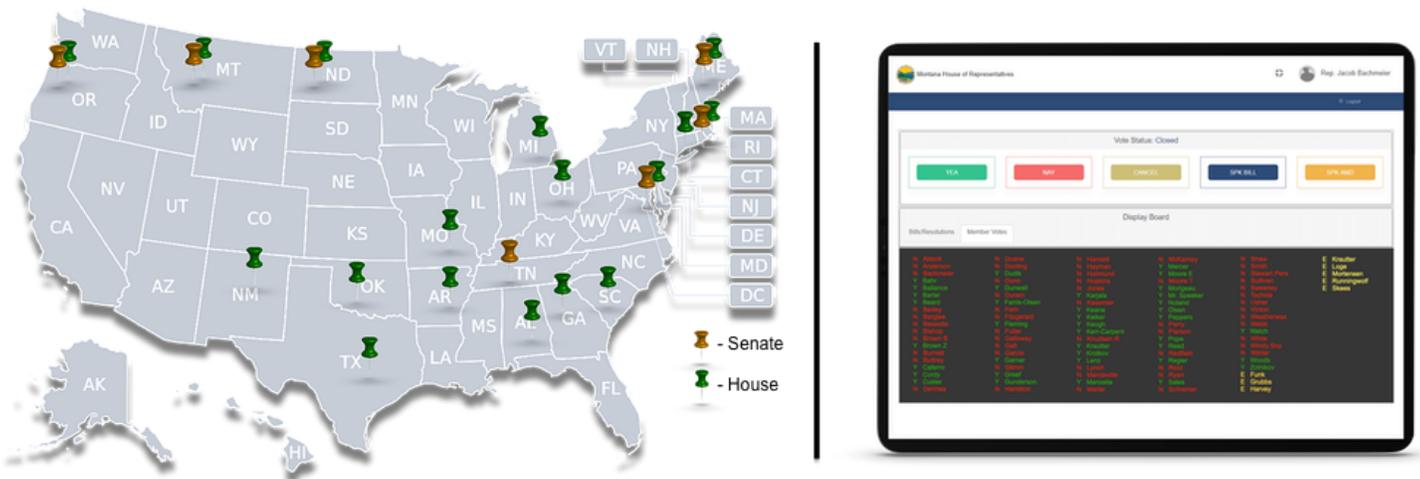
Similarly, in a recent project for the Iowa Legislature, IRC and Code3AV came together to assess the needs for improvement of the Legislature's automated camera and video systems, design the solution, and implement the new system components. This required the removal of aging and obsolete video system equipment and the installation of newer components including automated cameras, video switchers, camera system joystick control, and the IRC xmOverlayCG for laying voting information over the live video feeds from the chambers. All of the system components were configured to integrate with IRC's xmLegislator™ Voting Software which greatly increases the fluidity of the system and the ease of use by Legislative staff.

As we move ever further into a world where the expectation of digital media access to governmental proceedings is more and more prevalent, we at International Roll-Call® along with our technology partners, recognize that the legislative process is not excluded from this "brave new world." In fact, the State Legislatures can play an important role by being a shining example of governmental transparency. With multiple systems in play as part of that visibility, IRC remains a one-stop-shop, turnkey legislative technology solutions provider who is always ready to help empower our customers with the tools needed to enhance the legislative process for all State Legislatures. 🌐

## Virtual Voting Console Installations in the U.S.

The IRC Virtual Voting Console (VVC) System is a virtual vote entry interface to the xmLegislator™ Voting Software. The VVC system was uniquely designed with the intention to quickly and easily provide seamless remote voting capabilities via a virtual voting interface during times of emergency or disaster.

As of December 31, 2020, IRC has completed 24 installations in State Legislative Chambers. These legislative bodies are preparing for their 2021 Regular Sessions and have the IRC Virtual Voting Console (VVC) system available for their respective legislative operations. Some Chambers are preparing to use the system in various socially distanced locations around the Capitol or Legislative Office Buildings as a necessary precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic and others may be utilizing off-site secondary venues.



Alabama House of Representatives • Arkansas House of Representatives • Connecticut House of Representatives  
 Georgia House of Representatives • Maine Senate & House of Representatives • Maryland Senate & House of Delegates  
 Michigan House of Representatives • Missouri House of Representatives • Montana Senate & House of Representatives  
 New Mexico House of Representatives • North Dakota Senate & House of Representatives • Ohio House of Representatives  
 Oklahoma House of Representatives • Oregon Senate & House of Representatives • Rhode Island Senate & House of Representatives  
 South Carolina House of Representatives • Tennessee Senate • Texas House of Representatives

VVC informational video here: [vimeo.com/456346094](https://vimeo.com/456346094)

For further information about the VVC please contact Tyler Schaeffer at [tyler@roll-call.com](mailto:tyler@roll-call.com)  
 or by phone at 804-730-9600 ext. 105.

## Did You Know...?

Slattery's People (a Bing Crosby Productions series) was a 1964–65 American television series that aired on CBS about local politics and starred Richard Crenna as the title character James Slattery (first name added in a later season). Slattery was a state legislator in an unnamed district and state although he represented a seaport, a large city, and lumber and mining country. The show's opening, as featured in this YouTube [link](#), reveals the filming that occurred at the California State Capitol in the California House of Representatives. The series was originally billed as The House, then changed to Lawmaker, and ultimately titled Slattery's People. The show was scheduled in the 10-11 p.m. Monday evening timeslot. Unfortunately, the show garnered minimal ratings and was canceled soon into the 1965-1966 season.

An edition of Broadcasting described the show as follows:

*"Richard Crenna has already demonstrated his notable talents for comedy. He now reaches new heights of dramatic power as a state legislator dedicated to the interests of his constituents. The action moves from the charged atmosphere of the legislative chamber into highways and byways of the sprawling district which Slattery represents. You can look forward to a novel, compelling hour of adventure."*

The series was successful in the eyes of many critics and was nominated for various awards (Emmy and Golden Globe) including Best Dramatic Series and Best Actor.

Slattery's People is mainly notable for having been one of the few American television series spotlighting the daily life of local politicians, a topic that other programs of the period mainly avoided. The opening credits, as shown in the following You Tube [link](#), feature a quote often attributed to something Winston Churchill once uttered in the British House of Commons, "Democracy is a very bad form of government. But I ask you never to forget: All the others are so much worse." In addition, this segment is the highlight for us here at International Roll-Call® Corporation as it is in this sequence that the show's star (in our minds anyway) makes an appearance, which is the IRC voting switch and the voting display board that was installed in the California House of Representatives in 1947.

If you want to read more about Slattery's People, the following link provides an in-depth article on the show that was published online at [tvobscurities.com](http://tvobscurities.com). In addition, the National Conference of State Legislatures featured an article about the show in an edition of [The Thicket at State Legislatures](#). As reported in The Thicket, the opening episode is shown at the Legislative Staff Management Institute training program.

IRC is proud to lay claim to this moment of fame as part of our legacy, where our voting system products were once part of a series and will remain forever a part of television history. 🌐

PREMIERE! 📺



This exciting new drama series stars Richard Crenna as a rising legislator with James Whitmore as guest star.

10 TONIGHT ON CBS

**SLATTERY'S PEOPLE**



The above screen captures from the opening sequence of the show feature one of the early IRC voting switches that communicated with an electro-mechanical "drum counter" system control to tabulate votes received. The other screen capture shows part of an early display board that employed nameplates and electric incandescent red and green vote indicators, not all that dissimilar to some voting displays still in use.

## Welcoming New Staff

As we at IRC forge ahead with developing and implementing the most comprehensive legislative voting solutions in the industry, we depend upon our skilled and visionary staff more than ever. And so, we would like to introduce and welcome some recent additions to the IRC Team.

### Allen Smothers, Lead Software Developer, LMS

Allen comes to the IRC Team as a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth and George Mason Universities with a creative .Net development skillset. Our 3rd Reading Legislative Management System clients may get to know him pretty well since that will be his primary focus. Allen is father to three wonderful girls and spends his time away from the IRC Team camping with his family, supporting his daughters' activities, and tinkering with the cars he races as part of the National Auto Sport Association.



### Scott Zinski, Software Developer, LMS

Trained in web development at the University of Richmond, Scott's background as a full stack web developer brings an invaluable development asset to the IRC Team. Scott's focus will be on the 3rd Reading Legislative Management System, which he will work on during its continued development. When not writing code as part of the IRC Team, Scott might be found mountain biking, ferrying his kids to soccer tournaments, or tinkering in his garage with his dirt bike.



### Cortland Finch, Product Specialist

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he was trained in hospitality and business management, and with experience as a legislative assistant for two members of the Virginia House of Delegates, Cortland takes on a number of roles at IRC. He will be working with both systems installation and client relations and support and learning to support other technical requirements of the IRC products. In his free time, Cortland enjoys outdoor pursuits like kayaking and snowboarding or just relaxing at home with his dog Chief while watching the Tampa Bay Lightning tear up the ice.



## State Legislature Session Convene/Adjourn Dates

State	Convene	Adjourn
Alabama	February 2	May 18
Alaska	January 19	April 19
Arizona	January 11	April 23
Arkansas	January 11	March 12
California	*January 11	September 10
Colorado	January 13	May 13
Connecticut	January 6	June 9
Delaware	January 12	June 30
Florida	March 2	April 30
Georgia	January 11	April 2
Hawaii	January 20	May 9
Idaho	January 11	April 2
Illinois	January 13	**
Indiana	January 11	April 29
Iowa	January 11	April 30
Kansas	January 11	May 14
Kentucky	January 5	March 30
Louisiana	April 12	June 10
Maine	December 2	June 16
Maryland	January 13	April 12
Massachusetts	January 6	**
Michigan	January 13	**
Minnesota	January 5	May 17
Mississippi	January 5	March 15
Missouri	January 6	May 30
Montana	January 4	April 28
Nebraska	January 6	June 10
Nevada	February 1	June 1
New Hampshire	January 6	June 28
New Jersey	January 12	**
New Mexico	January 19	March 20
New York	January 6	**
North Carolina	January 13	July 30
North Dakota	January 5	April 28
Ohio	January 4	December 31
Oklahoma	February 1	May 28
Oregon	January 19	June 28
Pennsylvania	January 5	December 15
Rhode Island	January 5	**
South Carolina	January 12	**
South Dakota	January 12	March 29
Tennessee	January 12	May 6
Texas	January 12	May 31
Utah	January 19	March 5
Vermont	January 6	May 15
Virginia	January 13	***February 11
Washington	January 11	April 25
West Virginia	January 13	April 10
Wisconsin	January 12	**
Wyoming	January 12	March 4

\*Reconvenes

\*\*Legislature meets throughout the year

\*\*\*Adjournment is February 11 if 30 days,  
February 27 if 46 days