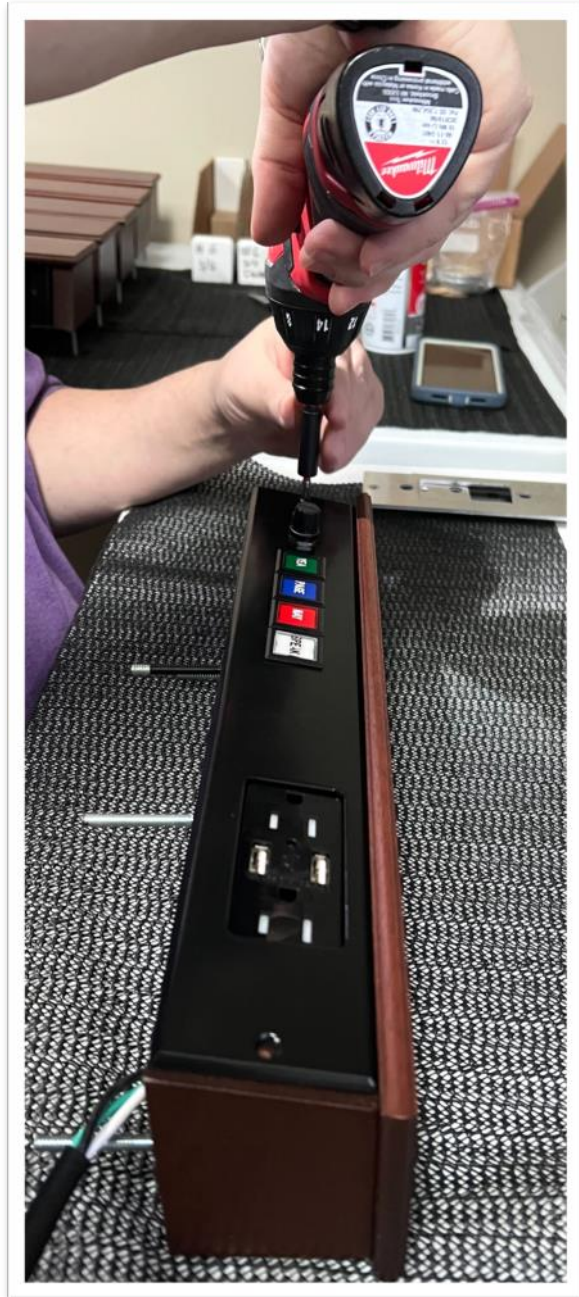


CUSTOMIZATION AND CRAFTSMANSHIP ENRICH TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS



(continued on page 3)

It is well known that International Roll-Call® (IRC) provides custom designed solutions for our legislative customers. These solutions and products include everything from chamber displays and page-call displays to the consoles used by members as well as staff. Oftentimes, IRC works closely with the legislature to perfect the design of these components.

The member voting console is perhaps one of the most important components of any voting system. While not as visible to the public as chamber displays, the voting console is the hardware that adorns every member's desk and is utilized by the member every single day while the legislature is in session. The member voting console is an extension of the member themselves since it is the means by which they are able to cast their vote on legislation. Further, the member's voting console is often the focal point of a discussion between a member and visiting adults or students whereby the member will use the voting console and voting buttons to explain legislative procedure and responsibilities to the visitors.

Many variables factor into the design process of the voting console, including physical size and space, current and future functionality, ease of maintenance and repair, and aesthetics in keeping with the design and décor of the chamber itself.

IRC's most recent project for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives involved the custom design and fabrication of 200+ stations for the members as well as non-voting consoles for staff at the dais and elsewhere located throughout the historically adorned chamber. The requirements of the design demanded an acute attention to detail to balance new functionality with preserving the historical intricacies of the House Chamber.

A Letter from the President

International Roll-Call™ Corporation, the only United States company that has been in the business of providing specialized voting systems throughout the United States since 1936, has a rich and multi-faceted history. The formation of the company has roots that trace back to the late 1800s and involved the famous inventor and businessman Thomas A. Edison.

The art of electrical voting was born June 1, 1869, when Thomas A. Edison's first patent was granted, on an "electrographic Vote Recorder." A simple switch at each desk, when moved to the YES or NO position, energized the Member's name in either the YES or NO column of type. A traveling carriage pressed sensitive paper against the type to record the vote; and it also picked up commutator impulses to actuate the escapement-type totalizer.

Edison's associate, Frank L. Dyer, a famed inventor in his own right, advanced the electrical voting device with a 1902 patent showing a key operated and remotely resettable voting switch, improved commutator and escapement-type totalizer, and a much-improved recorder, printing the Members' names with ink on YEA or NAY paper tapes. Between 1917 and 1919 Mr. Dyer enlarged his patent structure to also record PRESENT AND PAIRED, and added the Indicator Board; and he patented a method of high-speed recording. Eventually, Mr. Dyer's patents were sold to Marshall F. Thompson, the owner of the Thompson Voting Machine Company, who consolidated with Bornett L. Bobroff, the owner of the Universal Indicator Company, to form The American Signal Corporation in 1926. After about ten years, Marshall F. Thompson dissolved his ownership in American Signal Corporation and teamed up with his brother Charles F. Thompson, Sr. in 1936 to form their own company, International Roll-Call™ Corporation. International Roll-Call™ was located at 3114 West Marshall Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

The next critical phase for International Roll-Call™ Corporation came in the mid-1980s when an owner of a construction company acquired ownership of International Roll-Call™ Corporation. David A. Ward was the owner of Ward and Stancil. During a simple conversation with one of his neighbors he learned about the voting industry and International Roll-Call™ Corporation. Fascinated by the products and services offered, Mr. Ward acquired ownership in International Roll-Call™ Corporation. Over the next two decades Mr. Ward brought the company into the computer age and improved every aspect of the complicated electronics and software which maintains the integrity and reliability of the voting system to this day. After Mr. Ward passed away, I was elected to be President by the Board of Directors and eventually purchased International Roll-Call™ Corporation, from his estate, in 2014. Since acquiring ownership, IRC has continued to improve the voting software and hardware with current technology and through the efforts of my son Tyler Schaeffer, Vice President, IRC has expanded the company to include software to control the entire legislative process. The first successful implementation of IRC's new legislative management system (3rd Reading) was completed this year in the Alabama Legislature, adding to our rich and storied history.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

(Customization and Craftsmanship continued from page 1)

The member and staff consoles will replace the current ones which are of a brown metal finish and consisting of a vast amount of antiquated technology that is no longer utilized. IRC was able to design a console with a metal interior enclosure that ensures safety and stability but also allows for the attachment of custom-made wood pieces of a type and stain that matches the historical wood of the member desks and chamber woodwork. Functionality for voting and Request to Speak is maintained via hard buttons, a power outlet with USB ports is included, and an earphone jack with volume control is available for members who require it. Once fully assembled and in place on the desks, the new consoles will appear to be all one piece with a faceplate that houses these various functions.

In truth, the console is made up of many pieces and parts, all engineered specially for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and their specific and beautifully adorned chamber. Not including the weeks and months spent on the design and fabrication of all the separate pieces, the assembly of just one of the new consoles clocked in at just about an hour of precision work by a carefully trained IRC assembly specialist.



“Remember when you were a kid and you would sit down to build a model of a battleship or airplane... with all the pieces separated, your fingers sticky with glue, and absolutely no room for error?

Each one of these consoles was like that. So, think about building that model again and again over two hundred times and you'll get a sense of how these came together.”

– David Ward, Jr., IRC Assembly Specialist

Because of the complexity of the consoles and exacting design, an array of tools were used in the assembly process. In a couple instances, where the ideal tool for the task did not exist, IRC's Product Manager for Voting Solutions and resident gear wizard, Ryan Babcock, created the tools required! Still, other tools required modification to prevent them from marring certain metal and wood surfaces. At the end of the process, each console was tucked safely into its own box for climate-controlled storage and shipping.



While each member console design is specialized, the new consoles for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives are among the most intricately designed and unforgiving that IRC has ever created for a legislative chamber. That said, the customized research, design, engineering, fabrication, and assembly of the components is always a labor of love with endless patience and a lot of TLC during the process. Since our beginnings in 1936, serving state legislatures, this is what our legislative customers have come to expect from IRC, and we wouldn't want it any other way. 🌐

Chambers in 13 States Elect New Chief Clerks and Secretaries

by Holly South (Reprinted with permission)

The new year brought with it new principal clerks or secretaries in 13 state legislatures nationwide. The new officers include a former clerk and several assistant clerks and secretaries, and all are veterans of the legislature.

NCSL congratulates these members of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries on their new roles as the chief administrative officers of their chambers. One of NCSL's nine professional staff associations, ASLCS was founded in 1943 to improve legislative administration and establish better communication between clerks and secretaries throughout the United States and the territories. The officers are listed alphabetically by state.

John Treadwell, clerk, Alabama House of Representatives

Treadwell, who was elected to be clerk on Jan. 10, has worked in the Alabama Legislature for more than a decade, including as the deputy director of the Legislative Services Agency's legal division, the principal bill drafting and research office. Treadwell began his legal career in private practice in Morgantown, W.Va., then returned to his native Florida as an attorney for the Florida Senate Judiciary Committee. He is a member of the Alabama, Florida and West Virginia bar associations and serves as an associate commissioner on the Uniform Law Commission.

Tracy Cantella, secretary, Florida Senate

After graduating from the University of Utah with a degree in political science, Cantella moved to Florida and began her career with the state Senate as assistant to the secretary. In 2011, she joined the staff of the Senate Rules Committee as a legislative analyst, where she was "very fortunate" to work with former Florida House Clerk John Phelps, she says. She was named deputy staff director of the rules committee last March and was elected to serve as secretary of the Senate in November.

Erica McGinnis, chief clerk, Idaho House of Representatives

McGinnis was appointed chief clerk in August 2022. A one-day "extraordinary session" on Sept. 1 that year gave her a "crash course" in her new role, she says. She is now enjoying a more gradual education during the regular session. McGinnis has worked for the House for six legislative sessions and joined the clerk's office in 2021 as the journal clerk. She is the mother of two energetic kids and an avid runner.

Daniel Oberlin, secretary, Michigan Senate

A graduate of Michigan State University, Oberlin has worked for the Michigan Senate in various capacities for 20 years, beginning with constituent relations and policy work for Sen. Burton Leland. Oberlin worked as a caucus policy analyst for several years and, after five years as a caucus policy director, was appointed assistant secretary of the Senate. He was elected to serve as secretary of the Senate in January; former Secretary Margaret O'Brien now serves as assistant secretary.

Rich Brown, clerk, Michigan House of Representatives

A former radio reporter, Brown was elected in 2000 to the Michigan House in 2000, where he served for three terms. He served as clerk from 2007-10, then as assistant clerk in last year's session. He returned to the clerkship in January, succeeding Gary Randall, who retired this year.

Tom Bottern, secretary, Minnesota Senate

Bottern was elected unanimously as the new secretary of the Minnesota Senate in January. Previously the director of the Office of Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis, Bottern has served the state Senate since 1997, with assignments to a variety of committees as counsel. A Wisconsin native, Bottern holds a law degree from the University of Wisconsin and a bachelor's degree from Williams College. He and his wife, Cathy, reside in St. Paul with their two dogs. They are empty nesters, with two children in college and one living in New York City.

(continued on page 6)



WHAT'S COOKING AT IRC?

Apple Bourbon Bundt Cake

(Submitted by Jeff Finch for Judy Finch)

The Apple Bourbon Bundt Cake, as featured by Melissa Davis in *NYTimes Cooking*, is a hearty spice-filled bundt cake consisting of grated apples and toasted nuts that are soaked in a bourbon syrup. The bourbon helps maintain the freshness of the cake and allows it to last for days.

INGREDIENTS (10 to 12 delicious servings):

- 2 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more to grease pan
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more to dust the pan
- 3 tablespoons plus ½ cup bourbon
- ½ cup chopped candied ginger
- 1¾ cup light brown sugar
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- ½ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1½ teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 2 medium Granny Smith apples (approx. 1 pound) peeled, cored, and coarsely grated
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts (actual recipe uses toasted pecans)
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- Juice of ½ lemon

BAKING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 12-cup bundt pan. In a small bowl, combine 3 tablespoons bourbon and the candied ginger. Let stand 10 minutes.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat together the brown sugar and remaining butter on medium-high speed, until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Beat in the eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together the remaining flour with the baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. In a separate bowl, whisk together the sour cream and vanilla. Pour in the bourbon from the ginger mixture (reserve ginger) and whisk until smooth. Stir in zest.
4. With the mixer on medium speed, add the dry mixture and sour cream mixture to the wet mixture in three additions, alternating between the two. Fold in the ginger, apples and walnuts (pecans). Scrape the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until the cake is golden brown and a skewer inserted into the cake comes out dry, about 1 hour 10 minutes. Cool in the pan 20 minutes, then run a paring knife around the sides of the pan to release the cake; cool, flat side down, on a wire rack.
5. While the cake cools, combine the ½ cup granulated sugar and ½ cup bourbon in a small saucepan. Over low heat, gently stir until the sugar dissolves. Stir in the lemon juice and take off the heat.
6. While the cake cools, make 10 slits on top with a paring knife and pour half the bourbon-sugar mixture on the still-warm cake. When the cake is fully cool, flip it and pour the rest of the glaze on the other side, then flip again to serve.
7. Make a cup of coffee and sit back and enjoy a delicious dessert. I bet you come back for another slice or two!



(New Chief Clerks and Secretaries continued from page 4)

Kristina Martin, secretary, Missouri Senate

Martin began her career with the Missouri Senate in November 2013, splitting time between the secretary of senate's office and journal production. She later joined the journal production staff full time and began staffing the Committee on Gubernatorial Appointments. In 2019, she became assistant secretary of the Senate and was elected secretary of the chamber on Jan. 4. Away from the Capitol, she enjoys traveling, shopping and spending time with her husband and three children.

Brandon Metzler, clerk, Nebraska Legislature

Metzler was elected clerk of the Nebraska Legislature in 2023 and serves as a division director in the unicameral body. Metzler previously served as the assistant clerk for three years under longtime Clerk Patrick O'Donnell. He's held several other positions in the Legislature, including legislative page, assistant to the coordinator of legislative services and research analyst. Metzler graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, receiving his bachelor's degree in 2015 and his law degree in 2018.

Brendan Bucy, secretary, Nevada Senate

Bucy was appointed as secretary of the Senate in early 2022 and was elected to the position on the first day of the 82nd legislative session in January. Bucy has a doctorate in political science from Boston College and served in the legal division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau during the 2019 and 2021 regular sessions and during three special sessions in 2020 and '21. He was raised in Oregon and lives in Reno with his wife, a Nevada native, and their two boys.

Cheri Lujan, chief clerk, New Mexico Senate

Luhan was hired by the New Mexico Senate leadership in July to train as the chamber's next chief clerk following the retirement of Lenore Naranjo. Luhan became chief clerk on Jan. 1. Lujan previously served as Senate staff for 13 legislative sessions, following work in the state's General Services Department and nearly 20 years as district manager for a soil and water conservation district. She is the mother of four and has six grandchildren—with a seventh due to arrive around the time the Senate adjourns sine die. "I love to dance, travel and am married to my work," she says.

Michael Gerdes, secretary and parliamentarian, Pennsylvania Senate

Gerdes' role in the Pennsylvania Senate is twofold: As secretary, he administers the chamber's legislative functions; as parliamentarian, he advises the lieutenant governor, who presides over Senate sessions. Gerdes began his work in the Senate in 2015 as deputy counsel to the majority caucus before serving as counsel to two Senate majority leaders. He earned his bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from Georgetown University. He resides in Mechanicsburg, Penn., with his wife and two daughters.

Stephen Brown, chief clerk, Texas House of Representatives

Brown was appointed chief clerk in mid-November 2022, replacing longtime Chief Clerk Robert Haney, who retired. A native Texan, Brown graduated from Texas State University in 2004, began his career in the House clerk's office in 2005 and was appointed assistant chief clerk in 2015. He looks forward to serving in his new position and carrying on the tradition and legacies of his predecessors.

Katie Talbott, chief clerk, Wyoming House of Representatives

Born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyo., Talbott graduated with a degree in political science from the University of Wyoming. She has served as a legislative editor in the Wyoming Legislative Service Office since January 2020 and will resume those duties in the interim. "I'm looking forward to getting my first session as chief clerk under my belt and gaining some confidence in my role," she says.

*Holly South is a program principal in NCSL's Legislative Staff Services Program. This article was reprinted with the author's permission.

Original source: <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/chambers-in-13-states-elect-new-chief-clerks-and-secretaries>



Legislative Staffing and Modernization

by Scott Maddrea, Legislative Process Consultant

There is no denying legislative staffing has evolved over the last two centuries. Colonial assemblies functioned effectively with minimal support staff, but as the role of legislative assemblies grew in size and complexity, so did the necessity of hiring professional staff to keep and maintain detailed records of the legislature's work.

Historians frequently trace the professionalization of state legislative staff to Wisconsin's creation of legislative reference bureau in 1901, but professional research and drafting staff really proliferated during the interwar period when President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal policies placed new demands on state governments to handle grants, stimulus and new federally mandated programs. Part-time state legislators became overwhelmed. For many states the options were to increase the length of sessions and lose their part-time character, or hire additional staff to analyze and implement the vast number of federal programs, policies, and other initiative coming out of Washington.

During the 1960s and 1970s government reformers sought to transform the "sometime governments" in the states into more professional state legislatures which functioned more like Congress. This "congressionalization" of legislatures, led states to increase the length and frequency of legislative session, with many states transitioning from biennial to annual sessions, or increasing the length of sessions. States also enhanced legislative pay and started bringing on additional support staff to support the more demanding legislative schedule.

Whether discussing colonial assemblies, New Deal programmatic changes, or the "congressionalization" of state legislatures during the 1960s and 1970s, the growth in professional staff was largely policy-driven, intended to affirm and assert the responsibilities and powers of the legislative branch of government.

Growth and professionalization of legislative staff created new challenges and unintended consequences. As state legislatures began to assert themselves as a co-equal branch of government with state executives, conflict and confrontation became more the norm than the exception and the legislative process saw a dramatic increase in the volume of legislation. In some states the resulting volume clogged the legislative process increased friction and tension and made enacting laws more difficult.

This growth in the volume and complexity of legislation not only created a need for more staff but also served as the impetus for modernization of administrative processes including an increased reliance on technology.

3RD READING™ LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM





Comprehensive modern module-based
legislative management system
for the legislative process



The IRC Approach:

To be able to deliver a legislative process product that can be customized to each state legislature or chamber, we need to have a solution that can easily adapt and scale to meet the growing needs of any legislature.

IRC's next generation legislative management system, 3rd Reading™, which is currently in development for the Alabama Legislature and scheduled for deployment and usage for the 2022 Regular Session.

In addition, IRC has begun groundwork for development with the Mississippi Legislature.

Commitment:

Understanding the legislative process and the valued role of a chamber's Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is key to an effective technology solution.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ON THE WEB

WWW.ROLL-CALL.COM

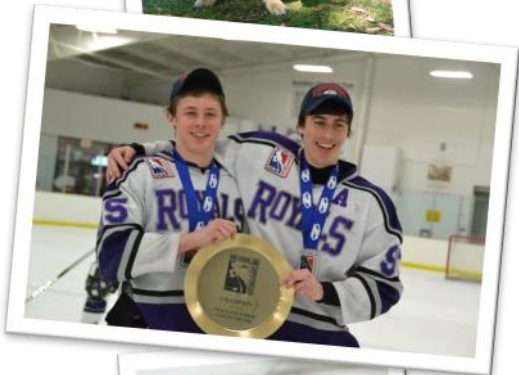
OR CONTACT US 804-730-9600

(continued on page 9)

Cortland Finch

Software Engineer and Business Analyst

In the
Spotlight



A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Cortland majored in hospitality and business management. He most recently earned a certificate in full-stack web development from the University of Richmond Coding Bootcamp. Cortland began his service with IRC working on voting system and display board installations, providing system component digital renderings and other digital creations client relations and support. He is now part of the 3rd Reading Legislative Management System division. Since moving to the 3rd Reading division, his time has been focused on the many hours that have been dedicated towards the successful deployment of the LINX/3rd Reading application for the State Legislature of Alabama.

Cortland is a diligent professional with experience in sales and logistic operations, legislative public policy office administration, and public relations. Prior to working for IRC, Cortland worked, during the 2020 Virginia General Assembly Session, as an Administrative Assistant for two Delegates in the Virginia House of Delegates. In this capacity, Cortland was the first point of contact for constituents and lobbyists seeking access to those members. to two members of the House Delegates and their staff during the 2020 General Assembly Session. In this role, he performed various responsibilities including data input for constituent surveys, creating and maintaining member databases, preparing constituent correspondence, drafting exemplary recognition letters/certificates, organizing member mass mailings and other constituent communications, and tracking legislation using various legislative process technologies.

After his graduation from the University of South Carolina, he took his business and retail management degree to the Rocky Mountains and worked for Vail Resorts in the Burton Snowboards retail store. Working onsite in Vail afforded Cortland many opportunities to hit the slopes and snowboard.

Cortland is an avid sports fan and loves to watch college football, NHL hockey where he cheers for the Tampa Bay Lightning, premier league soccer, and NBA basketball. A very interesting sports factoid about Cortland is that as a 15-year-old travel ice hockey player, he was fortunate to share ice time with his older brother Brandon as members of the 2010-11 Richmond Royals National Champion US18AA Ice Hockey team. After trading in the hockey sticks for golf clubs, he now looks for every opportunity to get out on the links for round of golf.

Cortland is a remote employee for IRC and now calls Pensacola, Florida home having just moved into he and his girlfriend Megan's new home. He still looks for opportunities to hit the slopes but finds few snow trails in Florida so rounds of golf will have to suffice. In addition, to sports, he and Megan love spending time with their two dogs Chief and Madden. 🌐

(Staffing and Modernization continued from page 7)

In 1923, International Roll-Call® Corporation installed the first electromechanical voting system installed in the Virginia House of Delegates, but it was another 65 years (1988) before the first Personal Computer (PC) voting systems were developed and installed using integrated circuits for system control.

Advances in technology have further served to accelerate the “modernization” or at least “automation” of administrative processes. Common needs arose which were recognized and addressed through technology. Word processors replaced typewriters. High-speed copiers, laser printers, tablets and laptop computers have become common sights around statehouses.

Today legislatures are embracing the opportunities that technology offers to bring modern solutions to everyday problems faced in tedious, paper-intensive processes.

Technology has made the process of researching and drafting more efficient and accurate. Technological innovations have helped automate time-consuming manual tasks, reducing the human errors inherently with manual data entry. Streamlined workflows make it easier for staff to devote more time to ensuring quality outputs within legislative documents.

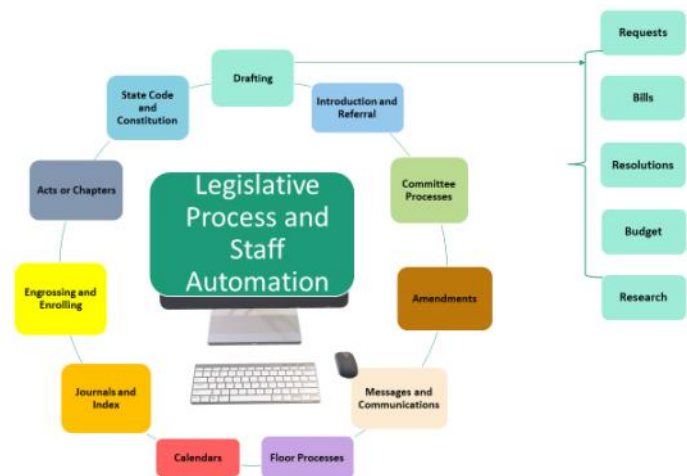
COVID pandemic further accelerated automation innovations. With traditional, face-to-face meetings no longer feasible even the most paper-intensive legislatures were forced to adapt. A 2021 NCSL survey of legislative information technology professionals revealed the pandemic accelerated changes in the use of technology in legislatures as staff were forced to rapidly adapt to allow legislators to work remotely.

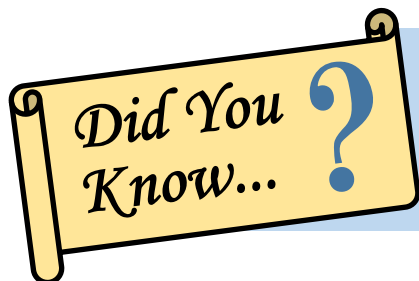
Many chambers adopted ad hoc procedures, adjusted or modified quorum requirement or supplanted long-standing protocols related to proxy voting in order to protect the health and safety of members and staff while protecting the obligations of the legislature to fulfill constitutional functions.

Technology makes many things possible, and IRC has invested considerable amounts of time and money to maximize the interactions between legislative staffing and automation to support the needs of State Legislatures. Done correctly, automation improves not just the efficiency of the legislature, but the effectiveness, bringing the work of the legislature to more people in ways that are transparent, accessible and easy to navigate. At IRC we are committed to delivering a legislative process product that can be customized to each state legislature or chamber that can easily adapt and scale to meet the growing needs of any legislature.

IRC has been at the forefront of technology and the development of legislative system solutions that reduce or eliminate redundancy of operations, maximize opportunities for efficiency, and strengthen the legislative institution while being cognizant of the political environment, the customs and practices of the body, and the flexibility required to adapt to the requests of leadership and limitations of rules.

With legislative management applications or voting systems in 70 state legislative chambers, our understanding of the Legislative process, 300+ collective years of staff experience, 84 years of doing business with State Legislatures, local governments, and the International Parliaments, IRC has an unparalleled ability been to streamline the legislative process with a family of integrated products designed to simplify and automate the legislative process. 🌐





Legislative Chambers: Size and Shape Do Matter

by Scott Maddrea, Legislative Process Consultant

The legislative processes of state legislatures are remarkably similar. Bicameralism, the role of committees, three readings, Journal requirements, engrossing and enrolling are familiar whether the legislature is located in Juneau (Alaska), Montgomery (Alabama), or Providence (Rhode Island). But while many of the processes and even the terminology are familiar, the size and shape of state Capitol buildings vary dramatically.

Every one of the United States' 99 legislative chambers has a hall for its meetings. The size and shape of these halls creates the legislative environment and shapes how legislators relate to one another. Architecture gives shape to ideas, as well as interactions. Recent studies have shown the design of these spaces structure can actually impact the decision-making process of the body.

As Winston Churchill famously remarked in 1943, "we shape our buildings and then our buildings shape us."

In an article published in The Washington Post in 2017, Max Cohen de Lara and David Mulder van der Vegt identified five architectural designs which influence every legislature in the world — and reveals how each governs. The five types were: (1) Opposing Benches, (2) Semicircle, (3) Horseshoe, (4) Circle, and (5) Classroom.

When the first colonial legislature, the Virginia House of Burgesses, met in Jamestown in the summer of 1619 they did so with the Governor and his council seated in the choir area of the Jamestown church, and the 22 Burgesses meeting in the body of the church because it was "the most



Opposing Benches Semicircle Horseshoe Circle Classroom

convenient place . . . they could find to sit in." As Max Cohen de Lara and David Mulder van der Vegt point out, "This was not unusual: very many, perhaps most, pre-modern deliberative assemblies took place in ecclesiastical buildings, which were simply bigger than most others."

When the colonial Capitol moved to Williamsburg in 1705 the legislature occupied a two-story H-shaped structure Colonial Capitol specifically designed for governance. Functionally, it was actually two buildings connected by an arcade, with each wing serving one of the two houses of the legislature – a design not uncommon today. Here the House chamber more closely resembled the "opposing benches" model familiar to the English Parliament.

As noted by Max Cohen de Lara and David Mulder van der Vegt the British model dates back to the pews of St. Stephen's chapel in the 13th century, where the English king called a form of parliament for the first time.

It's often said that the opposing benches shape of the Westminster chamber in Parliament is at least a contributory factor in creating different types of politics. Setting the parties in a confrontational manner provokes a more heated debate by encouraging the two sides to see themselves in distinct opposition to one another rather than a semicircular, horseshoe or classroom setting which encourages set speeches, rather than exchanges. Of course, Churchill saw he differently. He felt the opposing benches tightened party discipline and fortified party lines by making crossing the aisle more difficult.



(continued on page 12)



DAVID A. WARD TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established to assist Associate members with costs associated with attending the Society's Annual Professional Development Seminar (PDS). It is so named in honor of David A. Ward (1935-2008) who was the president of International Roll-Call Corporation as well as a dedicated contributor to the work and programs of ASLCS. This scholarship honors the great impact Mr. Ward's contributions made to 73 state legislative chambers and to the entire Society.

This scholarship is to be awarded annually to one or two Associate members and will be in the amount of \$1,500 for a single recipient or \$750 for each of two recipients.

REQUIREMENTS & HOW TO APPLY

- ✔ Be an Associate member of ASLCS
- ✔ Submit a letter outlining why you hope to be awarded the scholarship & how the PDS will enrich your professional knowledge of legislative technology
- ✔ Submit letter to the ASLCS Executive Committee through the NCSL Liaison

DEADLINE: JUNE 30
Contact Holly South for more information



MILLICENT (MILLIE) MACFARLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship was created in honor of Millicent (Millie) MacFarland (1956-2014), the former Chief Clerk and Parliamentarian of the Maine House of Representatives and former ASLCS President (2008-2009). This scholarship may award \$1,000 to two Principal members of the Society to attend the ASLCS Professional Development Seminar.

REQUIREMENTS & HOW TO APPLY

- ✔ Be a Principal member of ASLCS
- ✔ Submit a letter outlining why you hope to be awarded the scholarship
- ✔ Submit letter to the ASLCS Executive Committee through the NCSL Liaison

DEADLINE: JUNE 30
Contact Holly South for more information



Congrats and Best Wishes from IRC



Buddy Johnson, Parliamentarian, to Retire from Arkansas House of Representatives

Link: <https://arkansasadvocate.com/2023/06/12/arkansas-house-parliamentarian-retiring-after-a-decade-advising-speakers-and-members/>



EDWARD A. BURDICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship was created in honor of Ed Burdick (1921-2011), the former Chief Clerk and Parliamentarian of the Minnesota House of Representatives and former ASLCS President (1971-1972). This scholarship provides a stipend of \$750 each for two Associate members to attend the ASLCS PDS each year.

REQUIREMENTS & HOW TO APPLY

- ✔ Be an Associate member of ASLCS
- ✔ Submit a letter of interest to the ASLCS Executive Committee through the NCSL liaison
- ✔ Submit an endorsement letter by his/her principal clerk or secretary

DEADLINE: JUNE 30
Contact Holly South for more information

Thanks to Thomson Reuters for funding the 2023 Scholarship!



August 14-16
Visit IRC at
booth # 729

(Size and Shape continued from page 10)

NOTE: Max Cohen de Lara and David Mulder van der Vegt found actual violence within national legislatures has occurred more frequently encountered in semi- or hemi-circles than in opposing benches – at least in recent years.

In May 1780, the Virginia legislature relocated to Richmond but the Capitol Building would not be completed and ready for use until October 1792. The new Capitol lacked the now all too familiar wings for the respective chambers but the seating reverted to classroom or a slightly semicircular design.

The semicircle, which dates back to classical antiquity, became commonplace throughout Europe with the French Revolution. The semicircle focuses on a single speaker, addressing the chamber from a central platform, rather than the exchanges across opposing benches.

Notwithstanding Churchill’s view of opposing benches, the semicircular shape is thus designed to unite the body and foster consensus among the representatives. It also had the added benefit of facilitating politicians who were able to directly address not just their colleagues, but also a large public gallery frequently seated behind the presiding officer. The semicircle in fact encouraged a chaotic style of legislature where the representative spoke to their constituents and the public, literally over the heads of their colleagues and resulting in sometimes tedious drone of lawmakers who like the sound of their own voice.



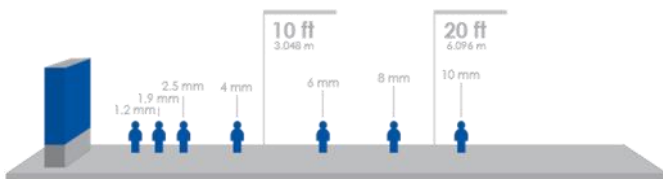
No matter the orientation of member seating, IRC’s expertise in legislative chamber display solutions offers technological solutions that can offer a model easily adapt and scale to meet the growing needs of any legislature and allow members, staff and visitors full viewing from any angle.

Knowing the impact voting display boards have on the day-to-day business during a legislative session, at IRC, our professional staff carefully reviews a multitude of factors in order to offer the best solution. Items often taken into consideration are display surface area, changes in chamber lighting throughout the day and seasons, display resolution, display location, size of chamber, visibility of text characters, and many more.

To date, IRC has installed over 50 LED displays in State legislative environments, the majority of installations consisting of 1.5mm, 2.5mm and 3.9mm, and 4mm LED display technology.

So why all the different resolutions? It depends on how the display will be used and the distance of the display(s) to the members. For example, when an individual is close to a 1.2mm LED display the visual is very crisp and clear. However, as an individual moves farther away from the display the LED technology could be 1.5mm, 2.5mm or 3.9mm and a significant difference would not be noticed.

As an individual moves farther away from LED technology the human eye can no longer detect the distance between the LEDs on the display, so the benefit of a higher resolution is, at some point of physical distance, nullified and only adds unnecessary costs. Also remember that in order to read the text on a display or in video the height of the characters has to be close to 1.5” at 50 feet away in order for the members and viewing public to clearly see the displayed text (please see the diagram below).



Chamber size, seating orientation and the employment of technology can be powerful tools to rethink legislative deliberations. Since 1936 (or 1923), International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) has focused on providing high quality voting solutions and displays and related support to the legislatures with new models that are more attuned to contemporary life and to the challenges that we are facing today. In each case, our products are designed around the unique and integral processes associated with the respective legislative institution that is being served. 🌐

ASLCS Spring Meeting



ASLCS Spring Meeting



ASLCS Spring Meeting



ASLCS Spring Meeting



IRC 2023 Upcoming Projects

Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives

New Voting Display Boards to be Installed

After considering the current and future needs of both the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives, IRC will be installing, in each Chamber, new voting display boards. The Senate will be receiving two (2) 1.5mm LED displays, message boards, and associated technology and the House will receive two (2) 2.5mm LED displays message boards, and associated technology. The benefits of these new displays include:

- Both the 1.5mm LED and 2.5mm Message and Voting displays are built using the latest Daktronics high-res LED technology and therefore will be capable of greater functionality and resolution;
- Support of live-video and media presentation formats including PowerPoint;
- ◆ Increase in text character height and capacity for additional characters used for member names or other legislative information;
- ◆ Versatility to display calendar items, committee schedules, and other information;
- ◆ Greater legibility of displayed content throughout the Chambers;
- ◆ Ability to be utilized as a public service tool to communicate Chamber information to visitors;
- ◆ Allows for the existing display control equipment to be upgraded to the latest Windows Operating System; and
- ◆ New technology improves service and maintenance capabilities.

These state-of-the-art display solutions will, without a doubt, provide for the growing needs of both the Senate and House well into the future and will be an invaluable asset when it comes to displaying legislative content including the current item, presentations, and other relevant information to the members and staff, as well as to the public.

Tennessee House of Representatives

New VSCU-1000 Voting System

In addition to new voting display boards, IRC will be replacing the existing SCU-9000 Voting System with IRC's new VSCU-1000 Voting System Solution. The VSCU-1000 Voting System is less complicated and more cost-efficient from both an installation and maintenance perspective, and a solution that will be an invaluable asset for all the legislative needs of the House, both present and future.

The VSCU-1000 Voting System, introduced in 2016, significantly reduces the footprint of the required technology, and simplifies the troubleshooting and replacement process for the equipment if future issues arise. IRC has condensed the entire system control, as it applies to the House, down to 16RU (rack units) with each unit operating on a single circuit card that receives data from the desk console inputs.

Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives

As part of a multi-chamber interim project, IRC is working during the interim with the Senate and House on various chamber improvements that address pressing needs for their legislative infrastructure. The following is a summary of the various subprojects to be completed:

MEMBER VOTING CONSOLES

A crucial component of any legislative voting system is the means by which the members cast their votes and the integrity of accurately and securely capturing and retaining that information.

IRC offers a range of input options for this task. Most legislatures make use of a member voting console, which IRC tailors to each customer's specific needs and unique legislative processes.

Member consoles can be constructed from a variety of materials such as coated or anodized aluminum, brass, polymer, and anything else in between.

Some of the most common functions for the consoles are:

- Voting
- Request to speak
- Page-call
- Summoning indicator
- IT assistance
- USB power ports
- Proximity card voting security

Every aspect of IRC voting consoles are built with only the highest quality components so that the hardware may last not years but decades.

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(Upcoming Projects continued from page 17)

Senate Chamber Improvements

Member Request to Speak (RTS) Consoles Improvements including VSCU-1000

IRC will be reusing existing console enclosures and updating them with a new face plate to include a Request to Speak (RTS) button and updated LEDs. In addition, IRC will install the VSCU-1000 system control rack units to integrate with and allow for optimal control and data interface for the Request to Speak (RTS) functionality.

Member Microphone Cord Reeler Improvements

IRC will be updating existing microphone reelers with custom-designed reelers and cord to allow for the best use of the Member microphones. The updated design will also reduce the amount of noise transmitted from the reeler to the microphone and overall sound system.

House Chamber Improvements

Member Voting Consoles Improvements including VSCU-1000

IRC will be reusing existing member console enclosures and updating them with new buttons and a new "Front" indicator LED and new face plates to fit the corresponding electronics. Additional refurbishments to certain voting stations will be implemented. As part of this improvement, IRC will remove the current system control for the House and install the VSCU-1000 system control rack units to integrate with and allow for optimal control and data interface for the Member consoles.

Page Displays Improvements

Another aspect of the IRC work will include the removal of the existing Page-call system displays and replace them with LCD monitors integrated with IRC voting software. These enhancements to the Page system will provide for increased display options of Member names, Page-call queue, chamber layout, etc.

Senate and House of Representatives

3rd Reading Product Development Update

IRC staff continues to work with the stakeholders in the Mississippi Legislature in the development of a new comprehensive legislative management system. IRC 3rd Reading developers are busy working closely with the Mississippi IT staff in reviewing requirements and making customized refinements to the base system. The first modules that are being modified are focused on the work of the Senate and House Legislative Service Offices for Request Tracking and Drafting.

The guidance provided for the project is the result of an extensive legislative review and documentation of the Mississippi legislative process that was conducted as part of both onsite and remote meetings with the staff responsible for drafting of all versions of legislation, introduction, numbering, referral, committee agendas and reports, floor calendars, messages, journal, confirmations, and enactment and everything in between.

The goal is to go live for a 2025 Session deployment.

xmOverlayCG
CHARACTER GENERATION





xmOverlayCG is a custom character generation system, including hardware and software, specifically developed for legislatures.

Technical features include:

- Compatible with Windows 10 & future operating systems
- Receives and transmits industry standard SD-SDI NTSC video
- Integrates with xmLegislator™ Voting Software
- Vast options for layout, colors, and fonts

Unlike other complex character generation and overlay products on the market, xmOverlayCG is designed to perform a certain task and to do so with the utmost efficiency.

Employing user-designed graphic templates, xmOverlayCG allows key information to be overlaid on Chamber video, including:

- Bill Number and Bill Sponsor
- Name of Member Speaking
- District Number and Party
- Motion or Action Item
- Vote Totals

The complete hardware/software package, consisting of a PC with a video card running IRC's xmOverlayCG software integrates with the functionality provided with IRC's xmLegislator™ Voting Software and provides an invaluable tool for transparency and information sharing.

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(Upcoming Projects continued from page 18)

U.S. House of Representatives

New Summary and Main Chamber Display Boards

Over the summer break, IRC will be installing new Summary and Main Chamber Display Boards for the United States House of Representatives. The 2.9mm Daktronics displays will be full-color and capable of rendering high-resolution images and text. The display solution will seamlessly integrate with the recently IRC-provided and updated display control equipment. At its completion, the project will inaugurate the U.S House of Representatives with four main displays and two summary displays.

Prior to installation of the new equipment in August, the IRC team headed up to Washington D.C. in May to deliver the equipment and test for performance functionality. The equipment was first inspected, logged, and repackaged at our headquarters in Richmond, VA prior to its transport to our nation's capital. Over the course of three days, the team, consisting of Ryan Babcock (Product Manager, Voting Solutions), Thomas Skelton (Hardware Specialist, Voting Solutions), David Ward, Jr. (Operations Support), and Damian Elliott (Field Technician, Voting Solutions), diligently tested and verified operation of each of the two million LED modules for the display boards. Custom fonts designed by Howard Jorenby (Senior Hardware Engineer) were tested and displayed in real time for client quality assurance.

After functionality and operation of all components was confirmed, all items were repackaged and securely stored until IRC's scheduled August return, for installation. The client expressed veneration for the appearance of the new boards and sharpness of display fonts. The IRC team looks forward to the upcoming installation and is privileged for our continued successful collaborative relationship with the United States House of Representatives.

California Assembly

New Voting Board Center and Side Displays

IRC will be providing the California Assembly an update for their Center "bill information" display and the two Side "member names" displays. The new LED display technology being offered will provide higher resolution LED modules involving fewer display components while maintaining the building block concept of prior LED display technologies. The display technology has been developed by Daktronics™ and, as a result of the alliance between Daktronics and International Roll-Call®, has received a substantial amount of consideration for how it might be best utilized in a legislative environment. As always, the IRC and Daktronics partnership allows for the development and implementation of a very integrated, flexible, and reliable interface for the display system.

The installed IRC/Daktronics display boards and associated technology allows for the creation of a vast array of content for the voting displays including voting sequences, video, photos, graphics, etc. The display combination capabilities of video and bill/file information is very valuable to the members on the floor and the general public seated in the gallery watching live session.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

VSCU custom button Member voting consoles for Yea, Page, Nay, Speak with dual power receptacle and USB interface

IRC will be completing the last phase of a multi-phase project for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The last phase will consist of custom designed member voting consoles that include Yea, Page, Nay, and Speak buttons, with a dual power receptacle and USB interface (see associated article on page 1 of this edition of the Tally Sheet).

The member voting consoles are the most visible aspect of the voting system used on a daily basis and are the most familiar aspect of the system to legislative members. IRC will be removing the current member voting consoles and replacing them with new custom designed technologically advanced consoles that are designed to match the wood of the chamber desks and woodwork, thus blending in with the beautiful and historical ambiance of the House chamber.

The current member voting consoles, in service for the past 30 years, are being replaced with a new design that will convey many benefits in every aspect of console performance and their interaction with the overall voting system. Some of these advantages include:

- ◆ modernization and redesign with the removal of outdated components and connections and replaced with a cleaner console that is lower profile in appearance and easier to service and replace or remove if necessary;
- ◆ direct connection to the VSCU-1000 system control alleviating concern for network slow-downs due to maintenance issues or resources overburdened by the activity network traffic; and
- ◆ modern components complete with smart and savvy design to provide and enhance user experience for every House member and will allow for ever evolving contemporary and future legislative technological needs.

(Upcoming Projects continued from page 19)

It is important to note that desk voting console switches with LED indicators are very reliable. There are significantly fewer electronics in desk hard-button voting consoles; therefore, the potential to operationally fail is significantly less than via other vote entry methods.

The member voting console located at a member's desk serves as a symbol and reminder to Capitol and Chamber visitors to the legislative democratic institution and the process of constituency representation via voting on legislation. As seen with the present member voting console, this type of hardware has an extended life-span that can last 30+ years from the date of the original install thus being a both dependable and economical while other vote entry options are dependent on a frequent rotational life cycle of two to four years.

Maine Senate and House of Representatives

Legislative Process Study

IRC recently completed an initial two-week onsite overview of the Maine legislative process. The IRC team, which consists of former legislative staff from Virginia and Massachusetts, were privileged to have the opportunity to meet with and observe the various staff of the Senate Secretary's Office and House of Representatives Clerk's Office, along with other legislative staff from Office of the Executive Director, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, Legislative Information Office, Office of Fiscal and Program Review, and Office of Legislative Information Technology.

In conducting the Maine Legislative Process Study, IRC will utilize a combination of onsite and remote meetings to accurately document all legislative process functions and documents, and related workflow. The IRC team is proficient in the knowledge of state legislatures, legislative processes and terminology, and the political environment that must be recognized and accounted for in the development and implementation of legislative technology driven solutions. The study will further document features of the current Maine legislative process and how they may best be served in coordination with any future legislative goals.

The IRC team target to finish the study is November 2023.

Alabama Senate, House of Representatives, and Legislative Services Agency

LINX/3RD READING Application Deployment



IRC and the Alabama Legislature successfully deployed the LINX/3rd Reading Legislative Management System application during the Regular 2023 Session and a Special Session that was called immediately after the convening of the Regular Session.

The deployment has been in the works since the completion of a five (5) month comprehensive Legislative Process Study that was comprised of numerous on-site visits and remote meetings conducted before and during the COVID pandemic. The Legislative Process Study consisted meeting with and listening to the Alabama "subject matter experts" (SMEs) to accurately document all legislative process functions and related workflow. Over the course of the study there were many opportunities for improvements revealed that would allow the new system to be built on the foundations of the old system. In addition, staff were on board to collectively define and implement an approach that would serve their future needs.

The implementation was not without hiccups, but collaboratively through communication and discussion, hurdles were overcome, challenges resolved, and opportunities accepted with positive results achieved.

During the 2023 interim, the IRC team of developers will review the recent Session to begin work on a list of enhancements that will strengthen the product to even better serve the needs of the Alabama Legislature's members and staff. 🌐

CHAMBER DISPLAY SOLUTIONS

IRC offers our clients cutting-edge display technology that can be custom configured and installed by our experienced technicians. All IRC displays often exceed the expected lifespan of other display equipment by five years or more.

The International Roll-Call® and Daktronics partnership offers access to two proven United States-based companies committed to customer success and timely service.

Optimization

Due to varying levels of ambient light in a legislative chamber, no other industry technology can provide sufficient brightness for high visibility.

IRC's partnership with Daktronics allows for the maximization of function and interface between IRC software and the Daktronics LED displays.

Variety

No matter the location of the display, IRC's expertise in legislative chamber display solutions offers a technological proven team that can offer a model to allow members, staff, and visitors full viewing from any angle.

LED High Resolution Displays come in a variety of pixel sizes, which dictate the resolution:

1.5mm 1.9mm 2.5mm 3.9mm

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QUICK REFERENCE CONTACT INFO



NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time – 804-730-9600
and request one of the staff listed

EMERGENCY SERVICE

Any time of day or night – 804-730-9600 or contact any of the staff
directly in the order listed

Key IRC personnel can be reached at the following office and mobile telephone numbers or email. 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.

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