

# International Roll-Call® 3rd

804-730-9600  
www.roll-call.com  
Richmond, VA



## INTEGRATING LEGISLATIVE TECHNOLOGY INTO HISTORIC CHAMBER ENVIRONMENTS

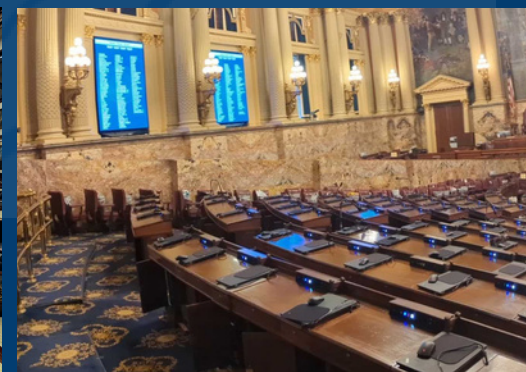
State Capitols and the legislative entities that operate within them serve an inviolable role within the governance of the United States of America. While this is certainly physically true of the buildings, it is also true of the processes and rules which guide the legislature. State Capitols and legislative chambers are places to be respected and revered, although a core aspect of their strength is the ability to evolve and modernize with the times. These days, that means finding ways to incorporate technology that was unimaginable 75 or even 50 years ago into a historic environment. This modern technology has been intricately designed not only to be utilized in the legislative environment, but to do so in a manner that benefits the history and the aesthetics of the Capitol buildings and the chambers themselves.



Massachusetts House Chamber



Florida House Chamber



Pennsylvania House Chamber

## IRC AND UNIQUE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTS

International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) has a long history of respecting the environments to which we bring legislative technology enhancements and we understand that each chamber has its own unique characteristics and challenges. Common considerations when implementing technology in spaces, which date back anywhere from 50 to almost 250 years, include a variety of elements, some more apparent than others:

*Conduit and Wireways:* While wireless technology has grown by leaps and bounds in the last quarter century, power and high-capacity data connections are still wired. Because of this, many older Capitols are required to navigate issues of finding and making available space for cabling without disturbing key structural or ornamental elements of the building.

*Historical Layouts:* State Capitols often contain historically significant rooms that must be respected. Unlike modern office buildings that are designed to maximize flexibility and ease reconfiguration, in state capitols, moving walls and reshaping areas is often not a feasible solution. This can sometimes lead to challenges relating to where to locate certain infrastructure elements and technology control rooms.

*Architectural and Decorative Elements:* It is often the details, large and small, that give a historical environment its character, whether it is hand-hewn wood or metal work, plaster trim, or even custom, artisan-commissioned enclosures for early technology such as electro-mechanical displays. All of these elements must be given deference when designing the implementation of current technology in their midst.

## IRC'S APPROACH TO HISTORICAL CHAMBERS

Throughout IRC's 90 years of providing the highest level of legislative innovation technologies, IRC has faced many of these challenges. We are thankful for this because it has given IRC the wealth of knowledge and humility to play a key, momentary part in enhancing countless legislatures that will continue to grow and evolve with continually growing technological advancements. We understand the advantages, limitations, and behaviors of all IRC solutions in the legislative environment. Therefore, IRC respects the boundaries set by historical preservation authorities. We consult with and listen to experts in every field of design from structural to artistic. Above all, IRC recognizes that there is no good way to force technology into a historical environment. Rather, it must be folded in and interwoven with the timeless elements of that chamber's design and that legislature's process. Taking these understandings of legislative environments into account, IRC always approaches each chamber-enhancing project with the following key components:

*A Balanced Approach:* When undertaking a project where technology must be integrated into the historical chamber environment, IRC seeks to work with every involved stakeholder in the project. This often includes legislative staff, Chamber Leadership staff, IT departments, building maintenance, general services, architects, historians, and preservation oversight entities. It is only by allowing all voices to be heard and collected knowledge to be shared that, collectively, IRC and legislative staff can chart a course for the best possible technological solution for a particular legislature's chamber.

*Looking to the Future:* Trends in technology have provided several tools that have proven useful and will continue to do so in the coming years if they can be fully secured and are cost effective for the legislature's needs. These include further advances in wireless data technology, which at the present time is not as tamper-proof as it should be and whose speed and reliability includes too many points of failure for the mission-critical business of a legislature. Other tools that one can imagine might become useful are electronic ink (for journals, publications, member and committee nameplates, etc.) as well as augmented/virtual reality devices for presentations and historical education.

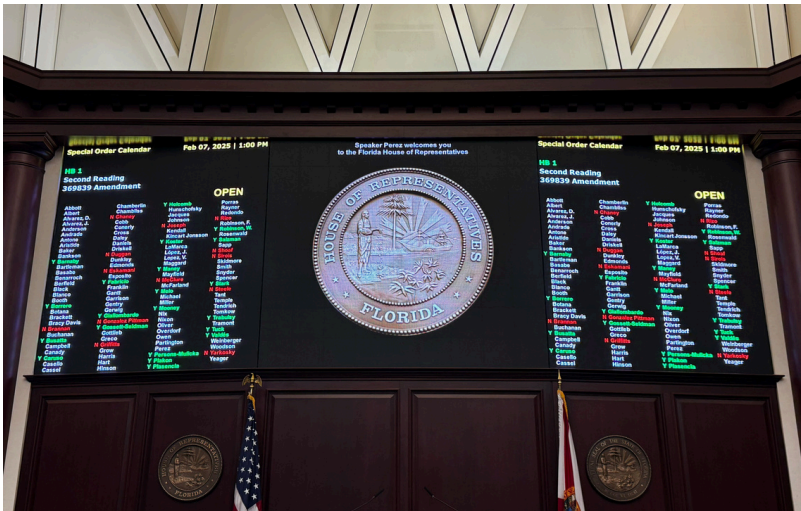
## IRC'S RECENT HISTORICAL INTEGRATION PROJECTS

While IRC has been in the business of seamless integration since its inception in 1936, the company has completed a few recent projects that required careful consideration of the historical and architectural nature of legislative chambers during the phases of design and implementation.

### *The Florida House of Representatives:*

In the Florida House of Representatives, IRC recently removed the old SCU-9000 system control and replaced it with the VSCU-1000 which is a scalable system that utilizes CAT5/5e/6 cabling from the rack to each desk. Additionally, IRC integrated new custom voting consoles with an anodized finish into the existing, ornate cast bronze plates at each Member desk. The new voting consoles include custom LEDs for their Rostrum (summons) indicator, District office Phone, and Rostrum phone. In addition, IRC designed custom machined polymer sleeves that are inserted into the bronze faceplates and allow the Member's microphone to be propped up ensuring all desks have a uniform look across the room.

Further, IRC integrated with the House chamber audio system in order to illuminate an LED indicator to notify the Member that their microphone is unmuted or muted. Lastly, the House decided to switch from their Crestron system to the IRC xmLegislator™ voting software to control the Members microphones. With this integration, multiple users with security permissions can control the microphones and the Members desks will change color for the Speaker and sound operator to easily identify who is speaking and where they are sitting. Also, due to the xmLegislator™ software's easily customizable interface, making GUI (Graphical User Interface) changes are easier than with a Crestron and have more options to choose from. Updates to the Speaker and Clerk consoles were also implemented including Clerk call, IT support, and custom switch covers for the Speakers Open and Lock vote buttons.



Florida House 4mm Daktronics LED Boards



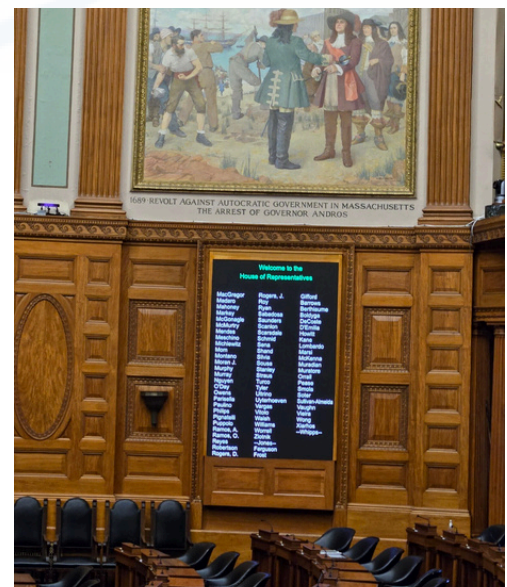
Florida House VSCU-1000 Member Desk Console

*The Massachusetts House of Representatives:*

In the Massachusetts House of Representatives, IRC replaced the last old analog displays with Daktronics full-color LED displays which were originally installed in 1984. Concurrently, we replaced the old system control with the newer VSCU-1000, updated the xmLegislator™ voting software, rewired cable connections, and custom designed and installed new Member consoles within a matching wood enclosure, expertly crafted and built by the House’s own carpenters to blend in with the desks and chamber. The new consoles include voting capability as well as duplex power outlets with USB-C and USB-B charging ports. IRC and our audio partner Code 3 AV implemented a complete replacement of the existing Taiden conferencing system with a brand new custom audio system in the House Chamber consisting of new Member microphones and chamber speakers. Due to IRC’s partnership with Code 3 AV under the IRC alliance group, service and support for the voting, display, and audio system is guaranteed for years to come.



Massachusetts House VSCU-1000 Member Desk Console



Massachusetts House 1.5 mm Daktronics LED board

### *The Pennsylvania House of Representatives:*

In the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, IRC worked with the capitol preservation authorities and architects as well as local Pennsylvania wood workers to design, fabricate, and install new Member consoles with wooden surrounds that match the 120-year-old Honduran mahogany wood grain and finish used on the Member desks and throughout the chamber. These consoles include voting capability, an audio headphones jack and volume control, and duplex power outlets with USB-B charging ports. IRC also provided non-voting consoles for a number of positions at the rostrum, replaced page display indicators with software-driven LCD monitors, and replaced the Speaker's console with a large touch-screen LCD driven by xmLegislator™ voting software and a custom voting console face plate. Along with this robust hardware update, IRC replaced the old system control with the VSCU-1000 control rack, four (4) new full-color Daktronics LED displays and display control stack, and updates to the xmLegislator™ voting software.



Pennsylvania House VSCU-1000 Member Desk Console



Pennsylvania House Chamber feat.  
2.5mm Daktronics LED boards

These projects are just a few of the groundbreaking achievements that IRC has had the pleasure of providing seamless, integrated technology for while still coordinating and respecting the nature and value of the working environment. IRC looks forward to working with you and your legislature to provide a product that is customized to meet your legislature's needs.

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.roll-call.com](http://www.roll-call.com), or email us at [info@roll-call.com](mailto:info@roll-call.com).**

**Did You Know...?**

*The oldest working State Capitol building in the United States is the Maryland State House in Annapolis, MD which was constructed in 1772. The youngest? The Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, FL which was built in 1973.*