

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Affairs Agency

Office of Information Technology

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative David Guttenberg, Chair
Legislative Council

FROM: Tim Banaszak *TLB*
Information Technology Manager

DATE: August 1, 2018

SUBJECT: House & Senate Chamber Voting System Replacement

The Legislature's electronic voting system has reached end-of-life status and is failing. The existing system uses components that are over two decades old and have become unsupportable. The voting system is critical during Floor Sessions and required by Uniform Rule 34¹. As such, I request authorization from Legislative Council to proceed with the required hardware and software replacement. The total project cost is \$912,700, with a 10% contingency of \$91,270, and an annual maintenance cost of \$17,300. As indicated below, a one-day session extension due to problems with the existing voting system costs approximately \$100,000; that equals one year of the proposed project cost if amortized over ten years.

	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	TOTAL
Project Cost	\$912,700	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	\$912,700
Annual Maintenance	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$173,000
10-Year Amortized	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	108,570	\$1,085,700

The existing voting system no longer functions reliably, is not secure, and experiences outages despite vendor, technical, and support staff efforts. The system operates on a Windows XP platform and, in 2014, after a twelve-year grace period, Microsoft ceased security updates and technical support for Windows XP and strongly recommended customers migrate to a modern operating system, such as Windows 10. The very next year, the voting system began to fail, which was during the 29th Legislature's 1st and 2nd Sessions and resulted in delayed, rescheduled, and unreliable floor votes. Since then, technical staff must be on site daily to keep the voting system operating, however the Legislature's voting system remains exposed. This critical voting system upgrade has been delayed due to costs, the three year Capitol seismic retrofit and exterior restoration project, special sessions, and other priority technology infrastructure upgrades.

¹ Uniform Rule 34. Voting Procedure. (c) Use of the electronic voting machine. (1) The electric [electronic] voting machine shall be used whenever a roll call vote is required or ordered. (2) The electric [electronic] voting system is under the control of the presiding officer and shall be operated by the chief clerk or [senate] secretary.

Proposed project itemized costs are:

Cost	Description
\$130,000	Migration to xmLegislator™.NET Voting Software House/Senate chambers (45% discount for both together)
\$89,500	VSCU-1000 System Control for House/Senate Chambers.
\$58,700	Member Voting Consoles, face plates, and Page Displays replacement for Senate and House chambers.
\$7,000	Request to Speak hardware and functionality to both Senate and House chambers.
\$242,500	Senate Chamber - Two (2) full-color 1.9mm LED message and member voting displays, display control equipment (primary/secondary failover), spare modules, power supplies, equipment rack, UPS, and peripheral equipment. IRC/Daktronics technicians on-site during installation.
\$50,500	Senate Chamber – Remove existing displays, installation of 1.9mm LED full-color displays, provide wiring and power design to each display. Configure xmLegislator™.NET voting software to new displays, create display sequences, install of primary and secondary display controller hardware and software, professional services, complete system testing and training.
\$247,000	House Chamber - Two (2) full-color 1.9mm LED message and member voting displays, display control equipment (primary/secondary failover), spare modules, power supplies, equipment rack, UPS, and peripheral equipment. IRC/Daktronics technicians on-site during installation.
\$50,500	House Chamber – Remove existing displays, installation of 1.9mm LED full-color displays, provide wiring and power design to each display. Configure xmLegislator™.NET voting software to new displays, create display sequences, install of primary and secondary display controller hardware and software, professional services, complete system testing and training.
\$12,000	Application and Database server
\$25,000	Power/Data wiring

I am happy to answer any questions.

Motion:

I move that Legislative Council authorize the House & Senate Chamber Voting System Replacement cost of \$912,700 with a project contingency of \$91,270.

**Written Justification for Sec. 040
Voting System Replacement**

Under Sec. 040 of the Legislative Procurement Procedures, I have determined that it is not practicable to purchase voting displays using a competitive method. It is in the best interest of the Agency and Legislative Council to contract directly with International Roll-Call (IRC) who currently provides 24/7 software, hardware and operational support for the existing system. Overhauling the system through IRC allows us to receive credits and reuse some equipment, configurations, and programming. They are a leading voting system vendor with installations in seventy-five legislative bodies, the U.S. House of Representatives, the United Nations and international parliaments. IRC has extensive experience supporting the Alaska Legislature and the requirements of legislative bodies nationwide and provides reliable service and prompt support.

Purchasing a third-party solution from another manufacturer would incur unknown additional costs, programming, integration, and training for voting system management and operation.

Representative David Guttenberg, Chair
Alaska Legislative Council
Procurement Officer