Information Technology Issues

March 30, 2014

1. Legislator Printing - Mike Allen

During the 2013 Legislative Session Apple and Android devices had limited printing capabilities due to unsupported protocols which caused network errors and jeopardized the health of the entire network. OLIT is continuing to work with SITSD to allow some non-windows devices the ability to print on the Legislator Private Network. Since the 2013 Legislative Session ended Cisco has made several upgrades to their software that has enabled Apple products to print on the Legislator Private Network. OLIT is continuing to test this capability. The ability for Android devises to print on the Legislator Private Network will not likely be supported in the foreseeable future due to the relationship with Google.

2. Legislator Common Device - Mike Allen

During the 2013 Legislative Session, OLIT supported 207 devices, with over 10 different operating systems, 8 different web browsers, and many different email configurations. This large variety of systems and applications proves to be a significant challenge for the OLIT staff. An additional and more serious concern was the status of system anti-virus protection. OLIT found only 86 Windows based systems that were adequately protected and 31 Windows systems un-protected. All 88 MAC systems had no anti-virus protection. OLIT would like to discuss a strategy to limit the systems supported or provide a common device for legislative use.

3. Legislator Common Email - Darrin McLean

This project will give Legislators their own email account in which they can conduct legislative business. Currently, legislators use their own personal email accounts to conduct legislative business. This causes several risks and issues including the mixing of personal and official information and communications, lack of archiving, and difficulty in control and support. Going forward the Branch needs a legislator email solution that is separate from their personal email. This solution will also enable archiving of official emails and better control and support of the email accounts.

4. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Steve Eller

The Branch has a largely unmet need for analyzing geographic (spatial) data and presenting the analysis in map form. Large amounts of the data that the Branch deals with can be presented better in map form rather than in tables. Once presented in map form, the viewer can better grasp what the data is saying. GIS systems can meet this need. The Branch currently uses GIS in its support of redistricting, interim committee work, and auditing but has not tapped into its full potential as of yet.

5. E-Learning - Steve Eller

Electronic learning systems, including training development tools, training delivery systems, and learning management systems, have possible applications throughout the Branch. Many of the functions of the Branch are education-oriented. LSD and LFD produce reports, white papers, and pamphlets on various policy areas. LSD also educates both legislators and the public on the legislative process and on the functions of the operating divisions. There are numerous internal training initiatives in all three divisions as well. A large number of the staff members in the Branch are certified professionals (i.e. CPAs, attorneys, and technicians) who must complete training as part of their continuing education requirements. All of these training-related functions, content development, content delivery, and learning management could be served by electronic systems. The advantages of such systems include ease of development and delivery, improved richness and quality of content, and more efficient management of training requirements. The Branch will consider the possible return on investment for these types of systems in terms of cost reduction and improved performance.