

II. Report on Progress of Committee's Recommendations Concerning Acquisition of Hardware and Software for Redistricting and Hiring of Temporary Staff

Prior Meetings:

At its meeting held on July 21, 2010, this Committee made several recommendations to the Legislative Commission. The recommendations concerned:

1. Acquisition of Software for Redistricting;
2. Acquisition of Hardware for Redistricting; and
3. Hiring of Session-Only Staff to Assist the Caucuses.

On August 13, 2010, the Legislative Commission approved the recommendations of the committee.

Software and Hardware:

We have purchased eight autoBound software licenses: four to be used by the caucuses, two for staff and two for public workstations. We have also purchased the hardware required for redistricting: four workstations to be used by the caucuses, each including a laptop computer with a docking station, a large monitor and a small desktop color plotter; two projectors that would be shared for presentations; desktop computers, including a large monitor and a desktop color plotter for the two public workstations; and two staff workstations. We are hoping to have the public work stations installed and operational in both Carson City and Las Vegas in time for the committee meeting.

Staffing:

We have also hired four session-only employees – one for each caucus – who are working for the Information Technology Services Unit (ITS) of LCB but will be assigned to each of the four caucuses. When the employees are not assisting the caucuses they will be able to assist with basic support for ITS and the Legislature. One of the few benefits of a recessionary economy is that you have a number of highly qualified applicants for any position you fill. This was certainly the case with these four positions, even though they are only session hires. We were able to hire four qualified and experienced employees, including one who served in this capacity in 2001. Three of the new employees have Masters degrees and the fourth is completing his Masters degree. All four have Geographic Information Systems (GIS) experience, including experience with a fire department (dispatch, fire map creation), a watershed protection district, a city, a state legislature, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a school district (among the four of them). Their familiarity and experience with GIS should be a tremendous benefit to each caucus as it develops and reviews plans.