How Is North Dakota's Legislative Council Increasing Efficiency and Lowering Costs Using Propylon® Technology?

Nowadays, system usability and flexibility are key factors when assessing the strengths, longevity, and long-term success of legislative software. Lawyers need technology that works with them – making processes easier and faster, not more complicated and cumbersome. But, traditional technological infrastructure that legislatures were first built on focused less on users' needs, making them less agile over time. As such, the aging software is becoming obsolete or unusable, making the need to move from a mainframe legacy system to a web-based solution paramount.

To replace aging infrastructure and better meet users' needs, North Dakota's Legislative Council worked with Propylon® to implement an XML-based integrated framework of applications to replace the legislature's legacy mainframe core business processes – including bill drafting, bill amendments, resolutions, session management, daily calendars and journals, bill status reports, session laws, and other legislative publications. As a result, it has increased efficiency, enhanced service levels, and improved functionality.

Enhancing Service Levels for Legislators Using Propylon® Technology

Reduced
Costs thanks to open source software

Increased
Efficiency and faster process completion times

Enhanced
Functionality, features, and usability

Greater
Transparency of the legislative process

Better
Data quality thanks to improved validation checks

Propylon successfully deployed a custom-built legislative solution to replace North Dakota's aging mainframe system. Now, North Dakota legislators can manage their workload more effectively with time-saving processes and user-focused tools to help ensure better service levels at a lower cost.

Before: Challenges and Opportunities
- Implement a document management system that is easy-to-use and simplifies processes
- Improve workflow processes, making workloads easier to manage with user-friendly tools that save you time
- Offer greater accessibility to, and transparency of, the legislative process for citizens to become more engaged
- Facilitate easy identification of review modifications to legislation with marked-up versions of documents

Why Propylon?
- Preferred choice based on solid reputation, proven expertise, and experience
- Ability to co-innovate and closely collaborate with the Propylon team
- Capability to support legislative staff needs with a dashboard and user interface that makes it easy to manage workload, workflow, and create and amend documents

After: Success and Results
- Provides a more efficient bill drafting process with better workflows and procedures
- Allows both legal and fiscal staff to create their own drafts
- Reduces the drafting/amendment workflow turnaround time dramatically
- Produces automatic amendment instructions based on changes applied from the original section of the law
- Enables bill engrossments to be completed more accurately and quickly thanks to in-built change tracking
- Enhances the daily journal module authoring process, allowing the journal clerk to immediately see journal module language and formatting

24x7
Accessibility for citizens to engage with the law

80%
Staff utilization of drafting functionality (compared to 25% previously)

>90%
Of mainframe applications eliminated

"One of the key success factors was the tight working relationship between legislative staff, the IT department, and Propylon. Propylon formed an extraordinary team and utilized a unique blend of agile and waterfall development methodologies."

Lisa Feldner, CIO, North Dakota Legislative Council