

## Computer system to make Metro Council work more accessible to public

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By the end of the year, residents will be able to monitor some of the Louisville Metro Council's work from their home and offices as part of a new computer system designed in part to make government more accessible.

The system will allow council members to more quickly research the history of ordinances they are considering, watch how their colleagues vote during meetings and eschew paper files -- as folks at home track the evolution of ordinances and resolutions in which they're interested.

"We'll all have everything right at our fingertips," Council President Kevin Kramer, R-11th, said of the \$250,000 system, which is being designed by SIRE Technologies of Salt Lake City.

The current system isn't flexible enough to allow the council to vote electronically on procedural issues and floor amendments, and it requires council members to carry large binders with paper copies of ordinances.

SIRE Technologies estimates that the council could save \$25,000 annually in paper costs alone and staff time needed to make thousands of pages of copies each meeting if all council members rely instead on electronic copies of legislation.

Kramer said council members hope to begin using the new technology during committee meetings in November.

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