

MONTANA LEGISLATOR COMPUTER USE SURVEY: 1992, 1996, AND 2004
Comparison of Survey Results For Selected Questions
August 2004

- Do you use a personal computer in your home or office?

	1992	1996	2004
Yes	59.4%	68.1%	95.1%
No	40.6%	31.9%	4.9%

- What type of computer programs do you personally use?

	1992	1996	2004
Word Processing	92.9%	61.5%	98.9%
Communications or E-mail	30.4%	40.7%	98.9%
Database	62.5%	36.3%	51.1%
Spreadsheet	58.9%	30.8%	53.3%

- If the Legislature provided you with a computer and software programs for your to use for legislative work (at your home or in the Capitol), would you be willing to use different software programs than you currently use?

	1992	1996	2004
Yes	92.7%	62.6%	87.0%
No	7.3%	1.1%	13.0%

- Whether or not you currently use a personal computer at home or at work, which applications would be valuable to you in your legislative work?

	1992	1996	2004
Access to bill status information	68.4%	80.2%	95.9%
Access to bill text	65.3%	70.3%	93.8%
Access to fiscal notes			92.8%
Access to text of amendments	64.2%	68.1%	91.8%
Internet		31.9%	79.4%
Word processing	73.7%	76.9%	78.4%
Access to state budget and financial data			76.3%

Standardize E-mail address for legislators			70.1%
Presentations given by staff to leg. committees			56.7%
State E-mail account			55.7%
Spreadsheet	38.9%	30.8%	35.1%
Personalize databases	48.4%	45.1%	25.8%

- If you began to rely on a computer for the functions listed above, would you want to be able to use it:

	1992	1996	2004
In a Capitol office assigned to me	54.2%	57.1%	86.5%
At my home or office in my district	39.8%	53.8%	77.1%
In the Senate or House chambers	49.4%	56.0%	63.5%
Where I stay in Helena during the legislative session	16.9%	30.8%	62.5%
In an area with a shared pool of computers in the Capitol	37.3%	26.4%	53.1%

- Would you support a budget to provide computers, software, and computer staff support to all legislators?

	1992	1996	2004
Yes, any reasonable cost	47.2%	56.0%	51.5%
Yes, with a limit per legislator	14.6%	17.6%	13.1%
No	20.2%	20.9%	19.2%

- If you were provided with a computer for legislative use, would you participate in pre-session training?

	1992	1996	2004
Yes, up to 5 days maximum	56.2%	56.0%	
Yes, up to 2 days maximum			36.7%
Yes, up to 1 day maximum	36.0%	26.4%	45.9%
No	7.9%	14.3%	17.3%