

many to get initiative to put it before the people and to disrupt the business of what I think we elect people locally to do which is to make budgets, to provide services for those you serve and those who elect you. I have to believe that 5% is too low because it can actually serve as a harassment to those people elected, either at the city or at the school level in terms of what they are going to do in terms of limitations of taxes and other kinds of things. So I am saying that 10% is not unreasonable because in Campbell assuming that all 535 people there were eligible voters and they're not, because you've got to remember some of them are not eligible yet and some may not be registered, it might only take fifty signatures and maybe not that many to present a vote to the people for the purpose of putting a lid or a limitation upon either school board, the city council or whoever it might be. Even if you were going to put it on Arthur County and the county officials, I think there are 600 people living in Arthur County, 5% of 600, and there aren't that many who are registered to vote, it might only be 400, so figure it out. 5% of 400, that is not too many signatures particularly when you can catch them at one of their favorite watering holes and you might be able to put a petition to them and say, this is serious, people. We'd better get this to a vote of the people. So, I am saying, I believe in this local option. Senator Warner and I were the introducers of this bill originally. What we are trying to do is modify it. Senator Carsten and I are doing this because of two cities we live the closest to have this limitation on them, 0% on local tax. So I would hope that this body would accept 10% as being a reasonable number of signatures on a petition to initiate a vote on whether or not we are going to limit the spending of that subdivision of government. I hope you will adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are speaking to the Koch amendment to the bill and the Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have a question of Senator Carsten if he would respond, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten, do you yield.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I will sure try to, yes.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Carsten, as the present statute provides, what is the percentage that is necessary for individuals through petition to place a budget limitation on a ballot?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well it varies from, as Senator Koch said, from 1% up to 15% in some cases but it does vary.