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we start with that, and we build on that, but ultimately the question is, which contender for the seat in question did the voters of the 30th District, in fact, cast the most votes for? Which candidate received the most votes of all ballots cast in which the uncorrupted will of the voter is clearly discernible? I would ask that you remember this morning that we are guided only by our rights and our responsibilities as the requirements laid out in our Constitution.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lowell Johnson. We will now proceed to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, we are a nonpartisan body but a legislature is a political body, par excellence. I believe that practically all of us, if not every individual, has arrived at a decision in terms of how he or she is going to vote. So I am going to make a few comments for the record and will not expect them to change anybody's mind. When Terry Carpenter was in an election contest some years ago, I spoke very strongly in favor of some ballots being counted. In that election, it dealt with a write-in. There were ballots that were not to be counted because they only wrote the name "Carpenter" or they put an "a" where there should have been an "e". This is not an instance where there was a clear statute which said, if a name is misspelled, that ballot shall not be counted. The laws relative to write-ins at that time and to his day are inconsistent. When we deal with absentee voting, there is an entire scheme that is drafted into law, and one of the provisions of that scheme and the courts' two judges, one in Gage County, and one in Lancaster County, read the statute. It is a statute which says what it means and means what it says. There is no ambiguity. It says, "Before any absent voter is issued a ballot, the county clerk, election commissioner, or any employee working in his or her office, shall first write his or her name in full on the back of such ballot. No ballot shall be counted by the absent voters counting board or canvassing board unless the ballot is identified by a signature as set out in this section." Laws either have meaning or they don't. We don't have ambiguity. We don't have statutes in conflict. We have a very straightforward assertion as to which ballots should be counted and which should not. When the law is in such a