

registration. If it is important, and it's that there is a balance of at least the two political parties, then it seems to me that that balance should be one which the individuals selected have been registered as whichever party they are for some period of time and that the opportunity to just simply change registration arbitrarily to meet the condition is not meeting the overall goal that is attempted to be met. Then another one which is somewhat a new concept perhaps, but it would require that the members of the staff, including the commissioner and the general counsel, would also have been registered for at least five years and that there would be a balance there as well of the registration of half and half, or at least no more than half by one party. The question may be raised that this is somewhat new, putting a condition such as this on the employees. Some attention...it has been called to my attention that this may be a constitutional issue whether you can require them by virtue of a case that went to the Supreme Court some months ago dealing with the hiring of public employees but, even in that case, the court noted that unless government has a vital interest in the area of employees, that you cannot have those conditions. Well, it was the kind of issue they were addressing that changed the course was where the political parties, either party depending on what the administration of a particular state was in which they restricted new hirings to people of one registration, obviously, the same registration as the governor that was serving at the time. It seems to me that there is an exception here where there is a preservation of a democratic process used in a different context where you ought to have a balance of employees. We gave a lot of attention to the balance of a board, a board that by statute does not need to meet more than once or rather more than four times during the course of a year and, as a practical matter, we know that's not going to be a lot of supervision from the board even though it is balanced on a political basis. More importantly, it seems to me that these employees will become classified employees. Once they are put into place, they are not going to change and I would like to see that balance of registration with the employees as well. As a matter of fact, if it was a concern about balance, I, you know, as a registered Republican I'd be more comfortable if the whole board was registered as Democrat and that the employees were Republican. Or if you were a good Democrat, you could feel the same way because that's really where it's going to count far more so, at least in my opinion, on the governing board. And then finally there are two, there is a change in two areas