

exemptions for VA, paraplegic, and aging, et cetera. I thought that we would only talk about this one time, to tell you the truth, and that is the reason I offered...was going to offer another alternative. I think, unless we offer taxpayers in this state at least two alternatives, we will not be responsible at all. If we, in our own wisdom who caused all this in the first place, and those that came before us, simply say to the people we have to protect the status quo because, after all, we have the authority to change it, what has been going on for the last few years, we didn't seem to do a very good job changing it to overcome the losses that exist at the present time and cause the crisis we have. But since we are going to visit again on Select File and on Final Reading, or will have another chance to reword something we put together hastily to offer taxpayers a choice, there is nothing wrong with having more than one constitutional amendment on the ballot. Sure, there are a lot of people that voted for tax exemptions in the past, never realized that at the same time they did that in their own charitable and kindness and goodwill, to whoever it may have been, thought that the result of that would be they would have to pay more property tax themselves. Carol Pirsch touched on the kind of system we have, how we got there, and I appreciate what she said, and how it all ultimately came back on people who just owned their homes, for the most part, and small businesses, generally. So what I would do is respectfully withdraw this amendment at this time but promise that we will revisit it on Select File. Hopefully, you will keep in mind that we should not talk about just one alternative. We got to the mess we are in now because we changed the system a number of times, and we should not simply protect what we have changed so often in the past and suggest that that is the only solution. There are some better ones, and the possibility that that could offer it to taxpayers in this state should be offered to them, and I think we should do that. So, Mr. President, at this time, I will withdraw my amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. The amendment is withdrawn. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit has an amendment. I have two amendments left, Senator Schmit, your AM2006. It is found on page 2409 of the Journal, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, there have been a