

August 6, 1992      LB 7, 9

on this petition process. Maybe, Senator Conway, you can respond to these. Like up in this plan I understand it would be your district and then Madison County would be the two elections. Is that correct?

SENATOR CONWAY: That is correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Now is there any limit as to how many candidates in either race, anyone that can...how many signatures do they have to have?

SENATOR CONWAY: We have not, Senator Robinson, have not got to that bill yet. There is a procedural bill...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...coming up, LB 9 is the shell or the skeleton to do that.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR CONWAY: What has been passed out by the committee basically prescribes a situation where it would be a petition process because of the lack of time to actually hold a regular special election for a primary and so you could have as many candidates as are able to muster. And in that bill there is a 2 percent times the targeted amount in each district or, in other words, about 644 signatures. And anyone who can garner that and is living within that district and garners those signatures within that configuration of that district then would be on the ballot for the general election.

SENATOR ROBINSON: And the top vote getter, no certain percentage has to be received, a certain number of votes, just the top vote getter in either race. Is that correct?

SENATOR CONWAY: That is correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. You could just about have gerrymandering by petition in this, couldn't you?

SENATOR CONWAY: I could probably put into context gerrymandering has been used to a great extent. Gerrymandering, if you go back and realize it's not the shape of a line, it is the ability to pack a district with...