

compactness, which is absolute. It doesn't say reasonably compact or a little bit compact or somewhat compact. It says they shall be compact. That also is stated in absolute terms. And so from my point of view, what is wrong with this Constitution, the way it has been interpreted by the courts now, is that it is intolerably inflexible and unreasonably inflexible, and what we need to do is loosen the standards with county lines in order to make it...give a little more flexibility there, and we need to loosen the standard with compactness to give a little more flexibility there, and allow reasonable people who understand what is going on in this state to make some judgments that may vary a little bit but are based on a set of standards that make sense. I hate to give such a pessimistic speech but I don't think we are out of the woods regardless of what you do in this particular instance. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hefner, on the amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, this is a tough issue for me to decide whether to support it or not, this amendment, because it changes the numbers around, but in offering this amendment that I did this morning, I said that I thought this here plan was more compact. It was a better map for us to adopt. But now since we change the numbers around, this would be denying those two candidates that have been successful in the primary a right to go into the general election, and I think this is wrong. They have their certificate of elections in hand. Are we just going to ask them to toss them to the wind? I was visiting with one of the candidates, Gus Pick, yesterday, and he said, well, Governor Nelson sent me a letter congratulating me for being two of the top vote-getters in the primary, and he wished me success in the general election. He said, what do I do with that letter now? If you folks legislate me out of that district, what do I do with that letter now? Also, he said, what do I do with that certificate of election? Why does the Secretary of State even bother to send them out, if they don't mean anything? And that's my argument here this morning, why do we do these things when we come down here in the Legislature and toss them out? There definitely, or I feel there definitely will be a lawsuit by those two candidates if we legislate them out of being able to run in the general election. So I just wanted to visit with you a little bit about that. Senator Conway, I have a question