

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. The one that was pulled was the amendment that would have brought the statute in line with the petition process where more than one could do so. Senator Conway's amendment took care of that so I withdrew the amendment that we had. Amendment 38...AM038 simply is a question I think the body should be on record one way or another and as Senator Conway and I both mentioned, we both have had mixed emotions on which way to go, but I think the body needs to, because of the circumstances we're in, if we're going to end up having a petition process because we decide to do something in the northeast part of the state, that we should at least have on the record as to why we chose to do it this way. There are really two ways to do the petition process. One is the way that the bill came out of committee, LB 9, and that process would mean that everyone that is in a district that had a primary, that has had a change, all people would have to go through the petition process and that would include certificate of election holders or those people that had campaigned through a primary and that won the primary who would normally automatically be on the ballot, they, according to the bill we have before us now, would also have to go through the petition process. And I don't really have a problem with that. One could argue that that is a fair way to do it since the districts have changed. The other arguments...the other position, a way we could go is the amendment that we're...that we have before us now so we can definitively state one way or another which way we prefer to go, and again I reemphasize that I'm not particularly sure one way is really better than another, the amendment before you now simply says that those people that went through the primaries, and, again, assuming that LB 7 stays in the form that it's in or even if it's one of the other forms, there would be new people in a district, if that district already had a primary, those certificate of election holders would still automatically be on the ballot. And the petition process would allow for anyone new coming into a district that had not had the option of filing or running for a legislative seat would then have the ability to go through the petition process and have their name added onto the ballot. And, again, Senator Conway's amendment that we just agreed to would allow for this because both certificate of election holders would be on the ballot. There is not a vacancy but because we agreed with the Conway amendment there still would be possible to have a number of petition candidates on the