

it. And of course it's been changed to fit that need. Same thing has happened with local liquor licenses, that in response to rulings that we didn't like or situations that didn't occur, lottery proceeds are the same thing. Many of those constitutional amendments were done out of public request and so on. But they're all written as an individual amendment, not done to tie in the rest of the constitution. We've also had 46 initiative and referendums proposed, of those 16 have been adopted. So, you know, we're roughly looking in the neighborhood of 164, 165 changes to the constitution since we last had a convention. Again, this does not propose a constitutional convention. What I'm asking for is at least some type of commission to review and examine our constitution for possible needs. I've passed out to you some of those numbers. But perhaps one of the more alarming things to look at in terms of need to review our constitution is look at the amount of amendments that have been proposed in the last 20 years, and you'll see that this year, by and large, well it is, there's no other year in the last 20 years that have had as many amendments proposed to change the constitution as this year, we have 36 constitutional amendments that we're going to examine. If we go back, last year we only had 13, for example. So it's a very patchworked sort of constitution. The United States Constitution probably has somewhere between 5- and 6,000 words in it, our constitution has in excess of 20,000, I think almost 22,000 words in it, and it's become very specific, it's almost become a statute book. And that has caused us a lot of problems because it's not particularly flexible, it doesn't...it isn't able to change with the times, it's stuck, it's frozen to do so. What I'm asking to do is have a commission created that would modernize, simplify and at least review for us some of the things that could be done. For example, one of the larger debates that this Legislature had was taking the Kearney State College and placing it under the university system. That required...well, we were within one vote of the Supreme Court requiring that to be a constitutional amendment and a change to do what, in effect, was a ministerial policy change, simply because we'd loaded those names of those campuses into our constitution. There are people who would dearly like to do away with the Public Service Commission, for example; should they be constitutionally created, or should they be, as a regulatory body, be allowed to be created in our statutes, and when the time needs to change their duties and obligations, but that can be done so without going through a two to six-year process that we have right now. The other issues that we look at, in Revenue