

at this point, given this is the only amendment that is before us on the numbers, Senator Schimek has put us on the road to I think what rational numbers should be and I will be in support of the Schimek amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR HALL: I would yield the time, Mr. Speaker. I got my answer to the question that I was seeking. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I guess I'd like to ask Senator Schimek a question, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: On the committee amendments as we have just adopted them, Section 18-4, the wording goes like this. The Legislature recognizes that uncertainty exists in the constitutional validity of Article XVIII, Sections 1-3 of this constitution. And we've adopted that for our constitutional amendment. The Legislature recognizes uncertainty exists. Can you tell me does that language change at all in your amendment?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No. Only thing I'm dealing with in my amendment are numbers.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. I think Senator Bernard-Stevens was a little confused and that's somewhat amazing. He's probably going to tell me I was, but... The signatures needed for a volunteer drive under the amendment that Senator Schimek is trying to have adopted would be 55,000, Senator Bernard-Stevens, rather than 34,000. I'm not sure how I'm going to vote on this. I guess I'm just disappointed that we adopted these committee amendments because I don't think we did ourselves any favors and I know we didn't do our citizens any favors. I have difficulties... I don't have difficulties with the numbers that Senator Schimek is putting up. I have difficulties with the first amendment that we adopted. The 55,000 that is required now for a constitutional amendment change would be even a few