

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Beutler, what...what does your amendment allow the Legislature to do that it can't do now? What...what does this change in terms of what we could do to put something on the ballot versus after your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it does absolutely nothing, except it allows the people to make a choice. Under the present mechanisms the way things work timing wise, the people don't have a choice. They vote up and down...up or down on an initiative affecting the constitutional amendment before the Legislature can meet again. The Legislature, as you well know, can propose changes to the Constitution. However, any proposed change to the Constitution that we made, under the way things work timing wise, would come after there had been a vote on the people's initiative. The only...the only thing that's changing is saying, whoa, slow down a little bit, let's give an alternative to the people of the state, let's trust their judgment, let's give them another alternative that they can vote on at the same time.

SENATOR BROMM: So, if...if the majority of the Exec Board would feel that a proposed amendment should not be voted on in the upcoming election, then by taking...by them taking action within X number of days, five days according to the amendment, they could delay that ballot question until the following year, until after the Legislature had met and a bill...I assume the Executive Board would introduce a bill and the Legislature would then process that bill. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right, that's how I would envision it, Senator.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Thank you. I guess I understand what Senator Beutler is saying and some of the philosophy makes sense. However, I guess I think we've had...I think we need to get ahead of the curve on these things. And Senator Beutler is perceptive, as well as others who have spoken, that we have a problem developing out there and a groundswell concern about property tax. And we're fearful that we're going to get stuck with something. Well, the answer to that, colleagues, is for us to do something and to do it ahead of time, to get ahead of the curve and not wait until somebody comes up with an idea and then say, well, we don't like that idea so we're going to delay it a year so that we can come up with something on our own. That's, you know, I don't think that's right, and I don't think that's