

election. I think as we look at the electorate and decide on philosophically what is correct, most certainly if we are trying to get a snapshot of those interested in an election who participate, that the last presidential election would be a better gauge than the last gubernatorial election, and so that is what this amendment does, and with that, I will answer any questions.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I had a chance to look at this a few days ago and Senator Bohlke showed me her chart and I rise in support of the Bohlke amendment. I think some of you might have seen the stories about the petition drive being discussed between the Farm Bureau and the NSEA dealing with property taxes, putting a limit on them, and they talked about between their two memberships, they had 70 some thousand, I think, individuals, and I think trying to acknowledge the fact that it is easier and quicker to gather signatures in today's day and age, and the reflection of that change with Senator Bohlke's amendment makes sense, and I'd rise in support of it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Bohlke and her staff on the beautiful green, red and blue copy that we have, or orange, green and blue copy that we have before us. And I guess I...and I rise to support at least the discussion, the philosophical discussion that we are going to have here this afternoon on this because I think Senator Bohlke does have some valid reasons for asking that we base this on presidential elections because we all know that more people are more active in presidential elections than they are in the off-year elections, in the gubernatorial elections. So I don't have any problems with discussing it. I guess, however, in the final analysis, it all breaks down to where you think the number should be. It doesn't really matter in the long run what the base is, whether it is registered voters, or whether it is based on those who vote in the gubernatorial election or those in the presidential election, it is whether you want the numbers higher or lower. And I guess I feel pretty good about what we accomplished on General File on this bill, and I don't know if Senator Dierks is going to speak on it or not, but I think we did get to a point where at least