

all we know this is the way it can be or this is the way it can't be. Either way, the numbers will be there so the people know what they are going to play with, and what numbers that they need to do. I strongly oppose the Beutler amendment and I hope that the body...the Legislature stands by its previous decisions and we move forward by first defeating this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Schimek, Hall, Warner, Maurstad, Vitiska, Wesely, and Beutler.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I stand in support of this amendment. I do want to engage in a little dialogue with Senator Beutler, if he would please. Senator Beutler, you indicated to me in our discussion that this amendment would bring us back to the same number of votes, or number of signatures required prior to that Supreme Court decision last July, is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, that should be, if memory serves, that's for a constitutional amendment that should require 10 percent of those who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, this does not bring down the number of signatures required. This retains the same number of signatures as exists in Senator Schimek's version for example, in the event that the two-tier system is defeated as existed in law prior to the Supreme Court's recent case also.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's simply not an accurate statement to say that it brings down the number of signatures.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, thank you. I do stand in support of this