

But in order to actually participate in the petition process everyone wanted registered voters, people who have taken the time to go down and register to be those individuals who could check those, sign off on those petitions. And why was that? Why was that? That was because there was no other way to check whether the signatures were valid. What would you ask for, a driver's license? There was no way in which to basically find out whether those signatures were legitimate so we used registered voters. That's what...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...had always been used. What came about, if you remember the failed lottery petition drive, we found out that there were a number of problems with our statutes in relation to the election laws, that the Constitution was in fact ambiguous prior to the change made in 1988 and it dealt with electors, not with registered voters, so what we did was we tightened that up. We being the Legislature, we being the Secretary of State, we being the individuals who are now opposing this amendment, those who want to allow people to have the type of process that they had in the past. Let's go back to electors. Let's make it clear, crystal clear for purposes of understanding somehow what we had before. In fact, what will happen is that the court never dealt with this issue in the past. It was the first time they interpreted these sections of statute, sections of the Constitution and in fact, since they were adopted...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...in 1920 Constitutional Convention, they've been in conflict and even prior to that. With that, again I urge adoption of the amendment and I'd like to hear from those who somehow seem to oppose this. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Madam President, members of the body, just a couple of comments about where are we going from here, and I'd like to just bring out a point that I hope puts a seed in the back of people's minds because this is a seed that is germinating right now and it's growing more and more and the seed is basically this. If we continue on these types of amendments such as what Senator Dierks has, what has Senator