

SENATOR DIERKS: That's right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I wanted to just insert this into the discussion for you to think about, and the problem is I don't think that what we're doing here...I think that what we're doing here is actually in favor of the people. I think that it will be fairer to the people and more impartial if we have the system where we have one interpretation rather than 93 interpretations. And I think that's a really important point to make because some of us living in some counties might be disqualified by a county clerk or election commissioner, whereas some of us in another adjoining county, with a different county clerk or election commissioner, might not be disqualified. And that does happen. And so I think that we'll be better off and people will be treated more fairly across the state if we have the system in place where the Secretary of State's actually making one interpretation. As Senator Chambers noted, he has, actually he now has that power and in conjunction with the Attorney General's Opinion, which he can require if he wants to. So I think that we'll find that we're getting interpretations which are based on court decisions and legal opinion. Most of these county clerks and election commissioners, I would guess that, in fact, all of them, are not attorneys and they have to go to their county attorneys for any kind of legal opinions, and, of course, if you've got 93 county attorneys, you're liable to get 93 different legal opinions. So I think this will be fair to the people, to the petition signers. I would urge you to vote against the Vrtiska amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I received a note which I think I need to call attention to because I may not have made clear what I was saying. The statute...the Secretary of State has authority to...not to promulgate election rules and regulations but to make interpretations. And what I had said the first time I spoke and probably didn't reiterate it the second time was we should define this word to some extent in the statute and couple that with granting authority to the Secretary of State to draft rules and regulations with reference to that definition. And the reason I'm saying that, if we give that specific authority with reference to that term then the Secretary of State can talk