

Warner. Senator Warner covered the details of this proposal. I think I will spend just the several minutes that are left in the opening on the philosophy of the proposal. LB 1114 is not the end of a process but the beginning of a process. You will note that, as we spoke on several other issues, that one characteristic that seems to be overlooked by many in local government who had looked at 1114, is that it returns almost unlimited, I probably could say, unlimited authority to the citizens of Nebraska in deciding how much they tax themselves. It does create a series of levy limits on the boards of entities that have the authority to levy property taxes, and that is true. But if we are ever to come to understand, whether within localities, within school districts, communities, counties, fire departments, all of those other things that do have the opportunity under current law to levy a property tax, we must establish a system where there is a well-defined acknowledgement and support by the electorate that they do believe that the programs that they are paying for are programs that they want, and are willing to promote these programs. Many people would find this proposal fearsome, and certainly it is. The people who are familiar with the system as it currently exists, where within whatever parameters are established in constitution or law, the elected bodies have full authority to do whatever it is they want, and the only control, and it's a good control, but the only control is the voters electing the members of those bodies. I would share with you that I spent a number of years as a secretary of a large Class I school system. It was one of the largest by area and valuation school systems in our part of the country at one point in time before we ran out of children and then merged with adjoining districts. But in that system, year after year, we had to have an annual meeting, and we had a large attendance from the people who were paying the bills, and there was not a year when they didn't recognize the need for an increase in the teacher's salary. There was not a year, when the people who were paying the bills, didn't understand that there needed to be new textbooks and teaching supplies purchased. When there needed to be a new school bus, they bought a new school bus. And at that annual meeting, upon the recommendation, and they made modifications from time to time, usually...

SENATOR WILL PRESIDING

SENATOR WILL: One minute.