

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lots of times when I close I use comments from those that have spoken, but since there were only two speakers, I can't really do that this time, so this is going to be a short closing for me. First of all, this is a reasonable attempt to try to change this policy in a thoughtful way. Secondly, I don't view this as harassing the bill whatsoever. If not, harassment must be a typical behavior that this Legislature takes part in. I've not said more voting is bad. That might have been a comment that was made on a previous amendment of some kind, but the intent here is not to try to provide less or more voters in any particular issue. All this is an attempt to do is to confine for a period of time, as we start out and test this, test the waters for this, see if this is something that Nebraska's voters are going to accept as it's been accepted in some other states, but I would remind everyone that Nebraska is unique in many ways. This might be another way that Nebraska is unique. So it's taking a lot smaller step by merely narrowing the application of the mail-in to bonded indebtedness, capital improvement questions and I think that's an appropriate way to start. I think it was appropriate to exclude candidate elections. I think that the elections that we're going to have relative to increasing property tax levies are just as important as candidate elections and would like to see us take as cautious approach relative to that as we are on candidate elections. And so the intent here is to merely try to make this a better policy in my view and that would be to narrow what this would apply to to capital improvement projects that needed bonded indebtedness that you would have to take to the voters. So I would ask for the support of the amendment. I believe that the principles of the bill will still then be in place and we'll be able to find out, test the waters in Nebraska relative to this concept, and if it works, fine. If everybody is comfortable with it, the citizens accept it, we can always go in later and remove this exclusion and the candidate exclusion and use it for all elections. But for now I think we need to start with capital improvement projects that need bonded indebtedness and would ask for the