

and all agree a constitutional amendment is needed. And then thirdly, Senator Chambers in particular, and others, wanted the language tightened, and we have done that. The amendment would strike the language on page 9 of the committee amendments, line 16 through 21, and replace it with language that says "the governing body of the county shall be elected". That was something that people wanted to have in there. They were uncomfortable of not knowing for sure whether or not the governing body would be appointed or elected. So it now says it would be elected. The governing body then, which is the same that is currently being done, by the way. The governing body right now is elected. The governing body then appoints a county administrator, that's a change, that's not currently something that we're doing. And then other county officers are either elected or appointed, that is also a change in that right now, according to the constitution, they all must be elected, none can be appointed. This then shall occur only by a majority vote of the registered voters voting on the question. So it is permissive, it needs to be approved on the local level. According to 1989 report by the National Association of Counties, 38 percent, or 1,169 of 3,107 counties have adopted a central management system. So it's not new, it's not something that hasn't been tried, it has been tried in many places and has been extremely successful. LR 92CA (sic) is one of several bills (sic) that enables local political subdivisions to conduct business in a way that is more efficient and that local government can become more effective through consolidation and mergers. We also, through the various personal property tax bills that we've advanced thus far, are saying to local government, through lids and levy caps, you need to operate within these parameters. Well the amendment that I'm offering today only enhances 292CA, doesn't change anything, I don't think the intent of anything we're trying to do, nor does it get in the way. If anything, it removes the (inaudible) that can only make 292CA better, because it gives local government another tool to organize differently, and it can only happen with the consent again of local voters. A central management system that appoints a professional has a proven track record, not only on a county level, but also cities have been using this form of government extensively for many, many years. Some people will argue that having elected department heads increases responsiveness to the public, but actually in some cases this may not be true because the opposite is the case. An example could be when a citizen is unhappy with the county law