

change it the next year. And it occurred to me, since we've been talking about this property tax issue, that I was wondering if our property tax proposal is really doing what we intended it to do, which to my estimation wasn't to severely restrict local political subdivisions on how much money they could spend just because of whatever reason. My goal in passing this package is to discourage a constitutional amendment from being brought to the people and having the people of this state enact one of those three constitutional amendments. And I had thought maybe, maybe our approach isn't going to work. And I thought, well, maybe nobody has done the basic groundwork and work to determine whether or not the voters are going to be impressed with our handiwork here this session dealing with the property tax package. I don't know if there's been any polls done. I don't know if any of the supporters here can talk about that, whether there were some polls done to say, if the Legislature did this, would you be more likely or less likely to sign a petition. Or one of those petitions did make it before them on the ballot on November, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for that constitutional amendment knowing what the Legislature had done to restrict the amount of money that local subdivisions can spend. And I don't think there has been anything done in that regard and that troubles me. It troubles me because we're going through a great deal of anguish here on the floor and a great deal of hard work to try to deal with this problem. And it may come to naught. These proposals are pretty tempting. I don't know if you've had the time to look through them. I thought this one was especially impressive here, as far as pulling at your heart strings. The Trio Amendment has this picture here, this caricature of this mother and daughter, and it states, "Mommy, this would keep them from taking away our home for taxes!" I mean these people really have gone out of their way to try to put the property tax debate in their perspective, and that being that property taxes are too high, that the Legislature has not done enough to reduce property taxes, and that the Legislature, in the future, will not do enough to deal with the property tax problem. And you have three groups out there, the Trio amendment people, the NSEA-Farm Bureau constitutional amendment, as well as the Jaksha amendment that are all telling us that. Now the NSEA-Farm Bureau amendment reduces property taxes by 30 percent. The Jaksha amendment freezes spending for three years allowing for some cost of living. And finally, the final one just eliminates property taxes, the Trio amendment. And I thought, you know, we're going