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SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, having vented my spleen by lambasting the parties, I will now address what it is that Senator Schimek is presenting to us, namely that we hold this provision on Final Reading until the Legislature does something that reassures the parties. Frankly, I'm not interested in reassuring the parties. I'm not interested in our putting something in the constitution today that says, although something is already in the constitution, we're putting it there now to tell you that we really mean this. What would this...now what I'm talking about is requiring that both people be of the same party at the time a selection is made. What will that add to the constitutional requirement that when the vote is cast at the general election, one vote is cast for both the Governor and his or her choice of Lieutenant Governor. It adds nothing. This is the problem that happens when you try to craft legislation the same way political parties handle their business. There is chaos. There is confusion. People can say one thing today, then change their mind tomorrow based on having polled other people. But when we talk about messing with the constitution, we don't have that kind of flexibility and we should not play with it in that manner. If what we're putting in the constitution does not add to what is already there, we should not do it. What is added by Senator Schrock's offering, amended as it stands now, is empowering a person who is going to be the nominee for Governor to select a running mate. That is what Senator Schrock's intention was. That is something with which I can agree. But when we're going to have to enshrine the parties a second time in the constitution, I don't agree with that. And if the Legislature decides not to enact a statute, nothing is harmed by it, because when the general election occurs, at that time both candidates are going to be members of the same party, I presume. But if we're trying to kowtow to and placate the parties, won't they have something to say about that situation in addressing their choice for Governor? We don't have to let the Legislature or the constitution become embroiled in that kind of pettiness. If after the party has selected somebody to carry their standard and they don't have confidence enough in that person to choose a running mate, why did they choose that person to be Governor? It should take more to run the state as Governor than it does to