

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2003

LB 540

mention that if we went to \$1.05 as the maximum levy, that there is certainly no requirement on the part of a local school board to decide to levy at \$1.05. They can go that high with a 50 percent vote. But they are not required to.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Right. But they can go on up to \$1.12 or \$1.15 or something like that, can't they?

SENATOR RAIKES: Only with a vote of the people in the school district.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Right. Right. With a special election type deal.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Then if this amendment didn't pass, they could still go ahead and raise their levy limits with their elections or a local level. Now, would I be safe to say that actually this amendment probably really gets the school boards off the hook so that they can go to \$1.05 without special election?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, it's an interesting point? Perhaps your view would be one view that could be presented. On the other hand, you might turn it the other way, is that this does in fact give the school boards authority to go to \$1.05. And so it puts the heat on them to make the decision as to what they want to do, what they think is appropriate, and of course, to face the citizens in the community about what their property tax levy is going to be. So I think generally speaking, it makes the decision about what exactly to do a local decision.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Now, one more question I was wondering about. If we adopt this amendment, then they have zero growth, is that true, on their budget? I mean, they can't...they got to use the same amount of budget money this year...next year as they did last year?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: One component, Senator Louden, would be zero,