

institutions and so forth. Now this particular interest has been a concern to me for years. There is so many times when I have gone to the ballot box, to the polling place in Omaha and been confronted with these long ballots that have several ballot measures that have well over a dozen, two dozen candidates, well over a dozen or two dozen different offices to have to vote for and been bewildered with a whole barrage of names that I'm not familiar with. I think that the Board of Regents Office like a number of other county offices, Natural Resource District offices, are low visibility offices. They are offices where the voters really do not have an opportunity to fully educate themselves about the candidates because, number one, there are too many other offices that are being contended for at the same election including, of course, more important partisan offices, the Governor, the Congressional offices, the Senate races and so forth. Secondly, there really are...it's really hard to generate an election debate or an election issue in an election for a position on the Board of Regents. So oftentimes we find candidates that are generating issues of their own, making issues out of whole cloth, candidates who tend to get on issues that are only tangentially related to the real functions and the real purposes of this administrative kind of a job. I think our political system doesn't work very well when we rely on the electorate to elect people to offices that are essentially administrative offices, particularly when those elections appear on the same ballot as those for the other offices that I indicated earlier. Studies show that these long ballot elections like we have in the State of Nebraska tend to discourage the public. The Nebraska data that has been reviewed indicates that one-sixth of those voting drop off before they get down to the candidate for the regents. Many voters are unable to name their regent. Many more are able to give only superficial reasons for supporting one candidate or another. At the same time the elections have become very expensive. In 1984 there was \$33,000 expended by two candidates in one race. In 1982 there was \$27,000 expended by two candidates in one race, again for a low visibility office most voters are not particularly familiar with and perhaps are not particularly concerned about. So what we're asking you in this constitutional amendment is to allow the people of the State of Nebraska to decide whether they want to continue with the same system for selecting members of the governing boards of the University of Nebraska or whether they would like to go to a system that