

This number increases at a much steadier rate. If we go back to comparing 1962 to 1958, we find there was practically no increase in the number of people who voted for governor in 1962 over 1958. Therefore, during that four-year period, despite the fact that the number of registered voters had increased, and the population had increased, it was easier to get signatures, despite the fact that for that four-year period, there was practically no increase in the number of signatures required, if we applied the same percentages.

Consequently, we suggest that there will be a much more practical and gradual affecting of the number of signatures required if you use the basis which we have suggested, the number of people who are registered voters. It is much more relevant to what you are trying to do, since every registered voter can sign. It will result in less upheaval at every election, simply based upon whether the election was an exciting one, a hot one, a well-organized one.

In summary, let me say that we have not attempted to knock down the referendum by our amendment. We have attempted to make it more usable by those who ought to have the power to use it, and to make it more difficult to use by those who would misuse it.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions now for purposes of clarification?

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Mr. President, first I would like to ask a question of the Chair. Would it be possible to vote on the two recommendations of the Minority Report on separate votes, first, increasing the number for the petition, and second, increasing the number of days?

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you think the question would be divisible? It seems to the Chair it would be.

DELEGATE CHABOT: I suggest to the Chairman that while as a theoretical matter, it may be divisible, as a practical matter, the two elements were combined to form a package. Adoption of either one of these elements without the other would so change the package that we have presented as to make it not acceptable to the movers of this package.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the sponsors feel it is a package, and since the Chair has not had sufficient time to study it, the Chair would have to rule it would not be divisible.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: I would like to ask a question of Delegate Chabot. Do you have any idea how many signatures would be required at present under the prior proposal?

DELEGATE CHABOT: Yes, sir. This is stated in the middle of page 3 of our memorandum.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Do you have any idea how many would be required in 1980.

DELEGATE CHABOT: This would depend on the number of registered voters. I would assume that as the population of the State increased and the number of registered voters increased, and parenthetically both the density of the population and the ease of obtaining signatures increased, that this figure, too, would increase.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any further questions? Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Delegate Chabot, is it not true that on the rolls of all election boards there are a lot of people who do not vote and the reason they do not vote is that some of them are dead, some have moved, and many are just plain disinterested. Why would you want to use their votes as a base for collecting signatures to oppose a piece of legislation?

DELEGATE CHABOT: Delegate Rybczynski, I would like to add to some of the relevant facts that you have mentioned the fact that many of these who were too disinterested to vote might well sign a petition at the present time. Under either the Committee's proposal, or under our proposal, there are many people who registered after the last election who did not vote at that time, but who could sign a petition and increase your number. You may well under the present proposal or under any of the proposals thus far before you obtain a valid petition without having the signature of a single person who had in fact voted in the last election. I suggest that if you feel there is a substantial problem, and I agree with you that there probably is, as to the weeding out of improper names on the registration books, then we take care of this by appropriate methods going to that question. I do not believe that that would create any problem with regard to the question before us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Wheatley was seeking the floor. Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: Would Delegate Chabot yield for another question?