

principle, in Colonial times, of allowing an individual only the right to vote if they owned property. In addition, we required that they be white and that they be male. So we did not allow for any minority votes or for females to vote, and we allowed nobody who owned...did not own property the right to vote. That was the principles we started with. We went from that point and finally, eventually, I understand, with the 15th Amendment, shortly after the Civil War, allowing for nonwhites to vote. We then followed with the action, I believe it was in 1919 or so, when we allowed females the right to vote through constitutional amendment. And...and property changed in terms of owning property as a demand to vote, did change over a period of time, but eventually was wiped out completely as a basis for determining voting waiting in the 1960's when a Supreme Court ruling demanded that there be one person and one vote, and across the country we went from the bicameral Legislatures, that had one chamber represented on basis of area, and another chamber basis of population, to both chambers having to be represented on the basis of population. Our own chamber that once had been allocated in terms of area went to one person one vote rule. Now, at that time you know there was a lot of consternation about the change. And it as felt, in the early 1970s, under a lawsuit, that you could have special use districts that would not have this one person one vote rule apply to them. And obviously at that time there was a court ruling that said that the NRDs were not a multipurpose, broad-based entity and did not fall under that. I think in response to Senator McKenzie's question, is what she's referencing in these different areas are very broad categories, they are just broad areas of responsibility. It's in the details and the actual power entrusted the NRDs that you have to look for the changes that have occurred over the last 20 years. And there, there have been substantial changes. I've seen them, I've witnessed them firsthand. And the NRDs are not the same entity they were 15 and 20 years ago. They have got substantially more power. They have got the same broad responsibilities, but within it they have authority, both in taxing and regulation and other areas that they did not once have. And so they have been strengthened. And I think if you go to court today, without a doubt in my view, you would win a court case saying that these ought to be one person one vote. Do we want to force a court case? Do we want to force the costs involved and the other trauma involved? Can we not settle this through the legislative process and acknowledge, as our Legislature has, as most of the country has in...in...across in