

City Council in Lincoln, for school board. I am very familiar with district versus at large and very supportive of what we did in terms of district election for the council. The only question I have, Senator Chambers, in Lincoln we have four district elections up and then like this year we are going to have three at large up this spring and we try to stagger them. The fear is...and if I'm not mistaken, the City Council for Omaha had this for a while where all of them were up and then you get a chance to have all new faces and you don't necessarily have any continuity. I think that's why you went to staggered elections. Do you fear or is there concern about going back and then having, you know, no continuity? Is that why you don't want to...why we went to this in the first place? At some point, they went to staggered elections. There must be a reason for it and it didn't work, evidently. Can you explain that a little bit?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Wesely, there really is no need for it with reference to the City Council and this idea of continuity is something that traditionally is mentioned. But if the entire council were to be replaced at a given election, there has never been anything to indicate that the city or the ability to govern would be harmed in the least. Sometimes it might be best for all concerned, except those who are being replaced, to completely change the council. The fact is that the city has found, and people who observed the situation, that when you have an election where only three city council members are standing, a lot of people are not even aware of that election. So by having them all elected at the same time would take care of that. The specific question you're concerned about is one that doesn't concern me in the least. If they replace all of them, there is no problem that I envision occurring because people who get into offices have differing abilities and capacities. Some could be in an office for 20 years and be as sharp at the end of 20 years as they were when they first started. Others may be in office for six months and learn a great deal because of their interest and concern about the problems that that office deals with, the tools available for addressing those problems and be a very capable public official. So I don't think the possibility of turning them all out at the same time is any problem at all.

SENATOR WESELY: The mayor's election, would the seats for the council all come up in the same election as the mayor's office?