

contain about 60,000 people, which is twice the size of our legislative districts. So I think a rationale can be shown for having seven members on the county board. I think it's easy to demonstrate that if a lawsuit were necessary to be filed, and I would be willing to file it, but it wasn't necessary to get city council districts or school board districts, and it shouldn't be for county districts. But there is more in the way of federal law now that would make a suit like that winnable than there was when the event occurred in 1979 in Thurston County. So there is a justification for district elections, we would be in line with what the vast majority of counties do right now in Nebraska, and these compromises, such as Senator Labeledz is envisioning, never work. Once in place you can never get it out of place.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Once you win by district you then have to run county wide and try to reach 415,000 people, which is doing away with the concept of making these races affordable.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I would oppose the Labeledz amendment as well. It is modeled on the Lancaster County plan. I'm from Lancaster County. There are other senators from Lancaster County that probably feel differently, they have a chance to express themselves. The way I feel is that our plan isn't necessarily the model that you ought to follow. We do have a plan where we have five county commissioners, they are elected by district and then they are...they run at large in the General Election. I, personally, don't think it's a particularly good system. There are others who feel differently. They think this provides a geographic balance, that every area the county gets represented. And then everybody gets a chance to vote on everybody that is on the county board. But frankly there are other models and other ways to go. The district election concept that Senator Chambers proposes is one way to go. And I, personally, support that. I think district elections makes for a smaller area, a chance for candidates to run and be elected that don't have all the resources that maybe others might have. They have a more limited area and limited population to appeal to, and so it's an easier thing for those type of people that don't have the Howard Buffett money or the name recognition that some of these candidates for Douglas County Board have, the innate advantages