

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Labeledz amendment. I just learned about this amendment this afternoon and frankly had some mixed feelings about it because of the Lancaster County experience. I, too, like Don Wesely, don't regard it in a specially favorable light. I would much prefer to have the all district elections. On the other hand, I said to myself how can we demand something for Douglas County which we don't have here in Lancaster County. My conclusion was that just because we've made a mistake, in my opinion, in Lancaster County doesn't mean that we should make the same mistake in Douglas County. So that is why I'm rising to oppose this amendment. Don Wesely has really said it all very well, as far as I'm concerned, about the reasons for not having the district elections in the primary and then the at large in the General Election. It's confusing to the voters, it is very difficult for candidates who run in a little tiny district election and then comes time for the General and they have to completely change their whole strategy and their whole, their whole technique for dealing because they have such large figures and so much more population to deal with than they did in the primary. So the whole campaign changes. I think often voters don't understand the differences between the district election and the primary and the General Election, and they get confused. I would like to just say, in conclusion, and I'm not going to take up all my time, if either Senator Chambers or Senator Wesely would like some of the time they can have it, but if we took this concept one step further and applied it to other elective offices, then we would have to say that we, as legislators, should run in districts, as we do now in the primary, and should run state wide in the General Election. And I don't think any of you in this body would particularly like that idea. It would give us more of a state wide vision, perhaps, and we would represent the whole state better if we did that. But we also knew what it would mean in terms of running an election, in terms of cost, and it just wouldn't be the same kind of election that we ran in the primary. We wouldn't get as many people, I don't think, to run that way as we would in the districts. Although I think those figures aren't conclusive. So if Senator Chambers or Senator Wesely would like my time, I'd be willing to give it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Which, Senator Chambers? About two and a half minutes.