

issues that have been out there, and the fights in the community, I guess I'm thinking that at this point unless there is a push by citizens in our county to make a change, that we need to do that. But I think if you ask people in Lincoln what they thought would be a better system, I think you'd find them supporting a district plan, that we've had problems in the districting and that they don't know their county board member. Senator Warner and I were trying to remember our county board members and we had some trouble recalling who they are. You don't have as much problem, I think, if you had a district plan where you at least knew who your district representative was and there was some continuity to that district. So what I'm saying is I think the system we have in Lancaster County could be better. I think the plan that Senator Labedz has put on this bill could be better with the original bill. And I support Senator Smith's reconsideration to go back to what Senator Chambers was originally proposing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, when I was first elected to the Legislature my first priority bill, and I should say the first bill that I passed, was a bill providing for district elections for first class cities. Now this mandatory four district breakdown of each first class city wasn't that large of a step for the Legislature to make, because all of the first class cities were at least divided into four, separate, distinct districts, except for one, that being the City of Ralston. And at the time they... I think the majority of the people were in favor of the district elections. There was some question among... when it was raised in committee about whether or not a community of a little over 5,000 had a need for district elections. But even in a small community like that you had diverse viewpoints on public policy among a municipality. And we had problem with that city council, and there wasn't a lot of change, but at least the representatives we have on the city council in Ralston now, the four members, I think, pretty well represent different parts of the city. Maybe the interests only deal with garbage pickup, or dogs barking in the middle of the night, or complaints I guess that deal with municipalities, they are still dealt with in a manner where there is accountability. That was the reason seven years ago that I introduced a bill and supported that bill, accountability, and that is the reason why I'm supporting LB 588. It's very easy for an individual that is elected in a large area to pass off