

you heard some of the people from Lancaster County here aren't even that excited about that system for their own county. The county commissioners would prefer, if you note on a 4 to 1 vote, they made a motion that they would prefer to keep the district election system in Sarpy County as it is today, and because I philosophically agree that that is the best system, I might add, if they were coming in and saying they preferred to keep an at large system, I don't know as if I would be standing here being in support of them, but beings that they are wanting to keep the system that I philosophically think is a good system, we are suggesting that the statute be amended that provides for counties of 100,000 or above to apply only to counties 150,000 or above. That will give us another 30 or 40 years probably, at which time Senator Hartnett and I will both still be here and we will probably bring this amendment again to up the county limit one more time, to provide that Sarpy County will not fall into the dastardly statutes that apply to Lancaster County. So with that, I would urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.

SENATOR WITHEM: And my closing time I give to Senator Hartnett who is co-sponsor, probably should have actually been doing...giving the introduction on this because his office did a lot of the work on it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think Senator Withem simply did a good job. We have in Sarpy County for as long I have lived there, and that has been 30 years, have had the district election, and so I think, we have got a letter I passed out and the board did, as Senator Withem said, voted 4 to 1 to leave it as it is, and we were going to bump into the Lancaster system, and so we are simply adding to raise that figure which Lancaster is above from 100,000 up to 150,000, so with that I would ask the body to support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Beyer.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I just want to indicate that I have talked to both Senators Withem and Hartnett about this amendment for sometime and I agree with it, I accept it. That was my original position.