

support it because this is what they want, and hopefully you will ask the same thing when you think about 588 on its final vote about what the county commissioners in Douglas County want and think.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, three responses to what Senator Beyer had to say that I hope the body would consider. The fourth one, the one that Senator Lynch made, is that there is a resolution supported by all but my county commissioner, I guess I should point out, who I think will forgive me for my actions here today, at least I hope she will, but the county commissioners did, in fact, support it. Secondly, if you want a change in the system, you ought to, you know, I would suggest Senator Beyer or the folks out in his district, if you want this system to change, you should bring a bill down to change the system. What is happening here is if we don't change the statute, the system of Sarpy County's election will change automatically. It will not have been by a positive action. It will be by inaction. You can argue the Labeledz position or the Chambers position on the Douglas County Board, but if a change takes place there, it is going to have to be because a senator brings a bill in and that bill, then, becomes a matter of public policy. The bill was passed several years ago to make up a system specifically for Lancaster. There is not intent that it apply to any other county other than Lancaster. It is our fault in Sarpy County because we have grown up, so that is one point. Another point is, and again, Senator Beyer, I don't know if your constituents realize this, that we are not going to get an at large election by not adopting this amendment. We will...the way you get an at...as a matter of fact, if you want an at large amendment, what you do is you get the county current statute, as I understand it, the county board could change to an at large election. If this amendment doesn't get adopted, you never are going to have an at large system, you are going to have a district system. Sarpy County will be mandated to have a district system, the type of district system that they have in Lancaster County. Third, I guess if I were living in Gretna or Springfield, I would rather have one commissioner elected by the people where a majority of the vote is in Gretna and Springfield, rather than having all five of them have to kowtow to, you know, airing the dirty laundry of the county here, I guess, all five of them are going to have to kowtow to the votes down in Bellevue, the voters down