

county commissioners. I encourage you to support this amendment and I do have the percentages now. How has city government changed since district voting? It has improved 37 percent but it stayed the same by 33 percent of those that answered the poll. The poll went on to say, or the article in the World-Herald, in 1973 a proposal for increasing the city council members to twelve members all elected by district was rejected by 71 percent to 29 percent. The...before the Legislature required Omaha to adopt district elections, the city voters in 1972 rejected 64 percent to 36 percent, a plan for increasing the city council to nine members, three elected at large and six by district. The vote in 1978 was 58 percent to 42 percent against a plan to nominate 14 candidates by district. We have the opportunity and I did change my vote so we could vote on this and perhaps then reconsider the vote on Senator Chambers' LB 588 that is requiring seven county commissioners rather than the five we have now. So I urge you to adopt this amendment and let the people of Douglas County decide whether or not they want to go to district election, and most importantly of all, whether they want to increase two more Douglas County Commissioners with the expense of \$21,000 a year plus support staff and anything else. Now you know with the state when we increase anything, it's not just the salary that accounts. In this case it would be about \$42,000 or more because I believe they are also going for an increase in the upcoming years. It is an additional expense that is not needed in Douglas County. As I said before, they are strictly administrators, they are not like the city council. We elect every other office in Douglas County. I mentioned those before. I won't repeat them. We do not need seven county commissioners and I believe the people of Douglas County will decide that on the ballot if I get 25 votes to add this to LB 588. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Discussion on the amendment, Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, obviously I oppose this amendment. To put in context what we are doing, Senator Labeledz is very upset about my opposition to LB 769 so she has offered a large number of amendments, and I agree that she has a right to do that. But it doesn't mean the Legislature has to take them seriously. Now the poll results that I handed out to you indicated that practically seven out of ten people in Omaha are in favor of district elections. When that proposition was put to a vote of the people, those in power