

prefer, because it provides for, and cases can be cited just from the last election, of individuals running and being able to win within the district they run from, but then losing the rest of the area of the county, and thus not being elected to the county board. So, if you truly want district representation, you need to have it both in the primary and the fall. Otherwise you have that district's choice cancelled out by having the at large election in the fall. I know of other examples, one of the reasons we changed the school board election was exactly the same. I had a neighbor who ran and was elected overwhelmingly within her district, but because it went...the same process was in place, she lost an at large situation, and was not elected to the school board. And it didn't seem fair or appropriate. So there are other reasons. It is easier to run by district in terms of the cost. You can work a district better door-to-door than you can a whole county. This is a 200,000 plus population county, and it's very difficult to have the resources to campaign county wide, difficult to have the money to campaign county wide. So more people should be able to run for that office than previously because of the cost and obstacles involved would be lessened by having to run in one-fifth of the county instead of all of the county. By having individuals run by district you also have the argument that that person has a smaller population to be close to, and that population is more easily identified with a representative, that there is better communication, better understanding between the two, that you have a closer relationship by having a district election system. I'm running through this, most of you already know these arguments. I'm merely laying out, for the record, the background on the bill. This whole issue came about actually back several years ago. Senator Chambers had a bill to go to district election in Douglas County. And at that time I and Senator Schimek were supporting it, and we were asked why we were supporting the bill, if we liked it so much why didn't we bring that issue into Lancaster County? And so, with that challenge, we thought that's true. If we believe in a district election system, we ought to bring that issue to the Legislature and that is why we are back. We feel again that, if asked by the voters of Lincoln what they prefer, I think that they would prefer this system. We are comfortable with it. We have seen it in place here in the school board and in the city council. And I believe that it has functioned well. There are concerns about parochialism. There are concerns that you don't have the broader view by having district election. But, in any event, I think that those concerns have not been found to have borne