

fruit, that district election system that we have in place in Lincoln in the school board and city council have worked well. We think that the same can be held for the county board. One of the things I'd like to point out about county government also is that it is sort of an unseen part of local government and is more important than, I think, people realize. You have, I think, identification with a school board and focused on the school board. The city council has a lot of attention, an interest in their work. But it seems like the county board is the forgotten part of local government, although there are other small, smaller local subdivisions, NRD's for instance, that are even more difficult to follow. The county board is an important function, and because of the system we have in place I think you'd find very few county residents who would even know who their county board members are, or what they do. And so it seems to me that we want to bring county government closer to the people, and one of the ways to do that is through district election. You know, I should note that in bringing the bill forward, a couple years ago, we discovered when Speaker Baack was then Chairman Baack of the Government Committee, that our county election laws were somewhat unclear. That's the best I can say. Currently there are some questions about what is legally and perhaps not legally happening in the election of county board members across the State of Nebraska. I know Senator Conway is pursuing that issue, and Senator Baack continues to have an interest. But in this bill, and I know in Senator Chambers' bill, there are some questions about the statutes that need to be addressed, and this isn't the time or the place. I merely raise it for the record that we are aware of difficulties with the statute and what they allow for election of county boards and what is happening in the election of county boards. There seems to be a problem there. So, with that, I'd be happy to answer questions. I can't come to you and say that the Lancaster County delegation is united on this bill. There is a split on the delegation. I respect that split and difference of opinion. I feel very strongly that a district election system is the better system to go with. I believe that the people of this county would likewise agree with that, and I hope the Legislature will agree to advance this bill and see that we make the change that we desire under this legislation.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, motion on the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to indefinitely