

Douglas County. Also, I am somewhat concerned by the argument that has been raised by some that only district interests will be represented if there be district elections. And certainly district interests will be represented and, probably, more adequately than they are now. Senator Pirsch raised the issue to me of the landfill issue in her district. But just because a particular representative is concerned with district matters does not mean that that board, when working together on issues of countywide concern, cannot vote together on issues that affect the county as a whole. It is my belief that the district, in summary, and I come down in favor of this bill because I believe that there will be more accountability on the county level because of this bill. I am going to support it. I have listened to Senator Chambers for four years on this, and he has cajoled me and harassed me and everything else he could think of to get me to vote for it and I have listened and I am convinced. As I have learned more and more about county government and city government and government in general, we serve as district representatives in this body, and as district representatives, we, I think, try to represent our districts, but when matters of general policy and concern that are statewide issues confront us, I think we have the ability in many cases to get together and vote on issues of statewide concern looking at the broader perspective, and as we get...and I am also convinced that we will have, on a county level, an opportunity to vote for some very fine district representatives in our county, that simply because an individual is elected by district does not mean that he or she is not the most qualified person for the job. I know in my district we have had very good city council representatives and, obviously, we have a wonderful legislative representative. But I do feel strongly about this now after listening to the debate for four years, and I urge the advancement of LB 789. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Is there further discussion on the advancement of LB 789? Seeing no one, Senator Chambers, do you wish to close? He waives closing. We will now proceed to vote on the advancement of LB 789. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the advancement of LB 789, have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 789.