

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, certainly a city-county merger is a very complex issue. And it really...I don't see the real correlation between that and expanded gambling and this particular issue. We do put things to the voters in way of constitutional amendments.

SENATOR LYNCH: No, no, my question was, how would...my specific question, Jim, with all due respect, because I've got a lot of things I want to ask a lot of people, some more I even want to ask you. How would you merge the assessors office? That was my question. I didn't ask for the philosophy about what the difference is between people's right to vote on anything. So how would you merge the assessor's office?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, the...

SENATOR LYNCH: Does the city...I'll help you answer. Does the city assess any property in Douglas County?

SENATOR JENSEN: No, the county does.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay, so that's already consolidated. How about registering deeds? How would we consolidate the registering of deeds in Douglas County? How would the city...how could we do that? Who does that now? Does the...

SENATOR JENSEN: The county does that. The county does that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Who conducts all the elections?

SENATOR JENSEN: The county does.

SENATOR LYNCH: I could go on down the line, go on down the line. You see I think that there are some problems. People could vote for a city-county merger because they think it sounds like, especially with all the reformers we have running around the world talking today, that it could be of benefit. But in fact those of us who have had a great deal of experience at both levels understand how it can also be very harmful. Real quickly I got to tell you the first merger, consolidated government in this century, 1900, was five boroughs or counties of New York in New York City, and we know what a wonderful experiment that turned out to be. And by the way, the people had the right to vote on that issue and they did. So in any case, see that's