

populace county of our state to have to contact all the registered voters in that county when the choice is offered through LB 129 to have it be a district size where you do your campaigning. I do support LB 129.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I intend to be very brief in my comments. I gave you a handout this morning because it points out that Nebraska... that the Legislature did intervene in Omaha to mandate district elections for the city council and also was done for the school board. The former opponents of district elections now that district elections are in place are the strongest supporters. You would have to fight tooth and nail to get districts out of Omaha now, and one of the handouts was because it contained the self-confession of a present council member who said that she was strongly opposed to districts. She thought there would be vote trading. She thought the city as a whole would not be taken care of. But now with the plan in operation she sees that none of those fears have been realized. Such is the case with the Board of Regents and every other division of government in this state which is elected by district. And for the information of those who may not know, the majority of counties in Nebraska right now right now select their board members by district. Douglas County has a tortuous history of many election type issues and in Douglas County there has been every conceivable method used for electing county board members and the Legislature was the agency that imposed the method in every case. So what this bill will do, as Senator Johnson pointed out in a very straightforward fashion, require district nominations, district elections and it will take the largest county in the state and ensure that there is at least a possibility that all areas of interest in that county will be represented on the board. One other aspect of the issue will be touched on by part of the handout I gave you where in 1979 a federal court intervened to mandate district elections in Thurston County. This has been done in other parts of the country by federal courts. Because Nebraska has not been opposed to the concept of districts, it should not be necessary to invite a federal court in by way of a suit as was done in Omaha prior to the Legislature's acting to require district elections. District elections in summary and conclusion is the preferred method of selecting practically every...or electing every member of every governmental subdivision in the state. So I hope that you will support this bill, take it over to Select, and when it gets there, I have an amendment to offer which will require the districts...it will be language saying, compact, contiguous and other protective language to make sure that when the