

they made in their campaigns. We conducted surveys and we found that people overwhelmingly were asking for property tax relief, even to the tune of increased sales taxes. So I would like to go on record as being with those people that oppose bringing this bill back on the floor.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz. Order please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, stand in opposition to bringing LB 210 to the floor. I would like to go along with the Governor, if possible, at any time for a decreased budget or a slight increase in the budget, but I can recall during the election in November where Amendment 4 was on the ballot and the people of Douglas County, even though they knew they were going through a reevaluation process, overwhelmingly with a high percentage felt that the outstate, the farmers, did need a property tax, not property tax relief, they wanted a status quo which was about 45 percent of what was actually being paid by the cities and so forth. Now if the people in Douglas County felt that property tax relief was needed outstate because of the farm situation and the crisis we are suffering there, I think they would also be very, very disappointed in this Legislature if we took away a very small property tax relief in LB 210. I will stand here and say that I much prefer LB 712. I appeared in front of the City Council on Tuesday and also the Douglas County Board on behalf of my bill which is the homestead exemption for the elderly asking for an increase from 35 to 45 thousand. I got the figures from Douglas County and there is over 7,600 elderly that are on the homestead exemption and that 7,600 received a 54 percent increase in their valuation of their property. The homestead exemption that is in 712 will be a considerable amount more than we have in LB 210, but I strongly support property tax relief and I did say to many of my constituents that it might require an increase in the sales tax, at least a half percent or maybe one percent. They are all for that because they know that the property tax is far too high in the cities. Because of Amendment 4, the situation is a little bit better outstate. I think that the Senators that do represent that district should know that Douglas County came forward for them. Now we are asking them to come forward for us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Having no other request for recognition, the Chair recognizes Senator Pappas to close. May we have