



Thomas "Tj" Somer

Biography

Thomas "Tj" Somer is a candidate for Cook County Circuit Court Judge of the 15th Subcircuit in the Democratic Primary election to fill the vacancy of the Hon. William M. Phelan. Tj has been a practicing attorney for 20 years. He received his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School, Chicago.

In an era where government is continually growing in size and its willingness to intrude on individual rights the role of the judiciary has become more important than ever. It is critical that we elect judges who understand that, for the average person, they will serve as the guardian of the Constitution and Bill of Rights – our country's greatest treasure.

I believe that the best indicator of the type of Judge one may be, is the breadth, depth, experience, and community commitment he/she has demonstrated in the past. I have dedicated over 35 years to public service, law enforcement, the practice of law, government and civic leadership. I believe my background has prepared me to help guard the precious rights that have been bestowed upon us.

In 14 years as a police officer I learned the difference between good police work and bad and how dramatically it can affect the life of an individual and perceptions of a community. I saw daily the ravages of poverty, violence and drugs and how dangerous and generational the effects can be. A judge needs to understand the total effects of crime on the community in order to act accordingly and help the community develop trust in the legal system.

As Bloom Township Supervisor for 13 years, I have worked closely with the impoverished, our youth, our Seniors and the handicapped. Although their needs vary by group, their need for confidence in the safety, security and future of their community is the same. The actions of the Judiciary are instrumental in achieving that confidence;

As a government and civic leader for 25 years, I have worked closely with many different ethnic, cultural and social groups in our community. Understanding and respect for different ethnic and social groups is paramount for establishing a sense of fairness, respect and inclusion for all within the legal system;

In my 20 years as an attorney I have tried hundreds of civil and criminal cases. I oversee fifteen to twenty Federal Court cases, the oldest case in the U.S. District Court, labor negotiations with six unions and all EPA issues. I author all City legislation and serve on a Finance Committee overseeing a 25 million dollar budget and 300 employees. A broad background in law is essential for a judge's knowledge of the law and flexibility within the court system.

The breadth, depth, experience and community commitment reflected by a judicial candidates resume' is a roadmap depicting the type of Judge they will be once upon the bench. I believe my resume' demonstrates that I have prepared for a lifetime to serve the people of Cook County as an honest, dedicated, fair and productive Judge.