

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Dear Editor,

I want to applaud Illinois Sen. Dan Kotowski for his legislation to place limits on the veto power granted to Cook County Board President Todd Stroger. Right now, it takes a vote by 14 of the 17 county board members to override a Stroger veto. This is outrageous. As both a candidate for the Cook County Board and as President of the Orland Fire District, Sen. Kotowski's work is appreciated. I found it very troubling that many elected officials, including my opponent, were nowhere to be found when Sen. Kotowski and others stood up and said, 'Enough is enough.' My opponent has been on the board for seven years and it's shame that she never took the initiative to be a leader on an effort like this to limit the power of Todd Stroger.

I want to be an active advocate for reform when I am elected to the board. At a time when people desperately need tax relief we cannot afford to have the kind of abuse, corruption and government waste that helps drive our tax rates through the roof.

This legislation is essential if we are to break the stranglehold that Todd Stroger has on our government. Elected officials, like Sen. Kotowski, deserve our support when they try to do right by the taxpayers. Without public pressure — from both the voters and local officials — this legislation is doomed to failure. We can't let that happen.

Sincerely,

Patrick Maher

Democrat for Cook County Board , 17<sup>th</sup> District