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**Release**

### **President Todd H. Stroger Dominates Saturday's Cook County Board Presidential Candidate Forum**

All four Cook County Board President Democratic Candidates met once again to debate their character, vision and accomplishments on "The Beat" radio program, hosted by Dick Kay on Saturday, January 9 at 1 p.m. President Todd H. Stroger dominated the forum, stating that the "new ideas" his fellow candidates have, he has already addressed while serving his first term.

"Today the gloves came off. My fellow opponents proved today that they are not fit to serve as the Cook County Board President. What many people don't understand is that I have already done many of the things my opponents are proposing during my first term," stated President Stroger immediately following the forum. President Stroger also reiterated that "never in the history of the Democratic Party in Chicago, have party leaders not supported an incumbent with my record of performance."

President Stroger continued, "I am proud of my administration and the employees of Cook County. My opponents only serve as a testament because they continue to applaud, and try to take credit, for many of the initiatives and programs I have already started. No one can argue with the fact that I have helped 25,000 families in Chicago save their homes, balanced four \$3 billion budgets, implemented "green" initiatives and made the County more energy efficient, hired more women and minorities to run departments than any board president in history, and closed a \$500 million deficit in the first 100 days without raising property taxes or fees."

"More importantly, in this economy, many people in Cook County are out of work and have no health insurance. As a result of the sound financial decisions and policies I've implemented, our hospitals remain open and provide quality healthcare to residents of Cook County," Stroger said.

While his opponents took hits at their credibility with questions about Water Reclamation District President Terry O'Brien's controversial stake in a company that consults some of the main polluters in Cook County and Court Clerk Dorothy Brown for consistently raising fees and court costs, President Stroger was able to focus on his accomplishments and the truth about the Cook County sales tax.

With key endorsements expected this week, and being the only candidate with a proven track record in executive leadership, Cook County Board President Todd H. Stroger continues to gain momentum with key supporters and constituencies across the County in his bid for re-election.

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