

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hon. Todd Stroger

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Stroger, Todd
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Todd Stroger,
Dates:	May 19, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:29:53).
Abstract:	City alderman and state representative Hon. Todd Stroger (1963 -) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, and served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. In 2006, Stroger replaced his father, John Stroger, as Cook County Board president. Stroger was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 19, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_061
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Todd Herman Stroger was born on January 14, 1963, in Chicago, Illinois. The son of the late Cook County Board President John Stroger, Todd was introduced to politics at an early age. He attended St. Felicitous Elementary School and St. Ignatius College Preparatory. After graduating from St. Ignatius in 1981, Stroger spent a year at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a semester at the Illinois Institute of Technology before transferring to his father's alma mater, Xavier University, in New Orleans. At Xavier, Stroger majored in history. It was here that he also met his future wife, the former Jeanine Baddoo. They have one son, Hans Eric, named after Stroger's late brother.

Upon graduation, Stroger returned to Chicago, working at the Water Reclamation District and the Circuit Court of Cook County before pursuing a career in investment banking. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992. As a member of the Illinois General Assembly, Stroger served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. He also served on committees dealing with computer technology, insurance and the environment. Among the bills he sponsored was one that would allow college teaching assistants and graduate assistants to form unions.

In 2006 Stroger's father, John Stroger resigned from his post as Cook County Board president due to health reasons. The Cook County Democratic Central Committee chose Stroger to replace his father and run for board president. Stroger won the election against Tony Peraica on November 7, 2006.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Hon. Todd Stroger was conducted by Adele Hodge on May 19, 2000, in

Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 3 Betacam SP videocassettes. City alderman and state representative Hon. Todd Stroger (1963 -) was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, and served as Chairperson of the Labor & Commerce Committee. In 2006, Stroger replaced his father, John Stroger, as Cook County Board president.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Stroger, Todd

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

(Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hon. Todd Stroger--Interviews

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

City council members--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Chicago (Ill.)

Illinois

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Todd Stroger, May 19, 2000. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/5/2012 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage, May 19, 2000

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_001, TRT:
0:30:40 2000/05/19

Illinois State Representative Todd Stroger describes growing up in a political

household. He describes the role of his mother, Yonnie Rita Stroger, and how she influenced him during his childhood. Stroger discusses his father, John H. Stroger, Jr.'s dedicated work ethic and how he impacted his early life and career. Stroger's father was the first African American President of the Cook County, Illinois Board of Commissioners. Stroger discusses his grandparents, Ella and John Stroger, and Grady and Flora Batchlor. He fondly remembers visits to his maternal grandparent's home where he played with his cousins. Stroger discusses his elementary education at Saint Felicitas, high school education at St. Ignatius High School and his college career, graduating from Xavier University in Louisiana. After graduation, Stroger worked at the Water Reclamation District then later at the Circuit Court of Cook County. He discusses the impact of the job on his life as a young man.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African Americans--Politics and Government.

African Americans--Illinois--Interviews.

African Americans--Education (Elementary).

African Americans--Education (Higher).

African American Catholics.

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_002, TRT: 0:30:31 2000/05/19

Todd Stroger described the impact of the death of his brother, Hans Eric, on his family. Stroger also discussed his responsibilities and duties as the Illinois State Representative of the 31st District of Illinois. Stroger credits his father, John H. Stroger, Jr., for encouraging him to become more involved with the community and politics. Stroger's early involvements with politics, as well as his understanding of parliamentary procedures and other rules, contributed to his political and professional development. Some of Stroger's accomplishments include sponsoring bills to provide appropriations and other forms of support for job fairs, minority business development and various types of organizations.

African American families--Death.

African American families.

African Americans--Politics and Government.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. Todd Stroger, Section A2000_061_001_003, TRT: 0:28:42 2000/05/19

Todd Stroger learned about politics at elementary school and at home and feels that political science should be taught in elementary schools. He references Cecil Partee, Cornel Davis, Harold Washington, Carol Moseley Braun and Arthur Turner as respectable and notable people in legislature. Stroger remembers talking with Arthur Turner, who began working in the early 1980s. Stroger provides examples of how differences exist within the structures of black and white political families. His relationship with his wife, Jeanine Marie Stroger, is one of the most influential events of his life. Stroger wants to be remembered as someone who cared about people, tried to help the community and was able to get things done.

African Americans--Marriage.

Segregation.

Race relations

Illinois--Officials and employees.

African American politicians.

Partee, Cecil A., 1921-

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

Braun, Carol Moseley-, 1947