



**Congressman Danny K. Davis endorsement of  
Toni Preckwinkle for Mayor of Chicago  
March 19, 2019**

Chicago has come a long way since Jean Baptiste Point DuSable set up shop and started trading with the native Americans Indians who were here. We are at a juncture where we will elect new leadership and I am here to today to tell Chicago why I support Toni Preckwinkle for Mayor of our city.

The whirlwinds of political change are in the air and all of us are at a point where we can feel the potential for a new way.

After being engaged in the process and after many hours of discussions with individuals and groups while promoting as much unity as I could. I have determined and I have come to the conclusion that the City of Chicago will be better served with Toni Preckwinkle as Mayor.

The City of Chicago is indeed blessed to be on the verge of electing only the second woman in its history and the only woman of African American heritage to be its Chief Executive Officer and Mayor of this great city and I am indeed proud of this fact.

When a friend of mine heard that I was going to support Toni For Mayor of Chicago and not her opponent, he asked me why; and I said to him that President Preckwinkle understands both the principles and practices of governing and of government leadership and has proof of her accomplishments. She knows how to make things happen and to get things done.

I do believe that during a Toni Preckwinkle Administration:

We will see more minorities working on building and construction projects.  
We will see more westside residents appointed to boards and commissions.  
We will see public education expand.  
We will see more focus on early childhood education.

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When I drive through the 4<sup>th</sup> ward area and compare it to what it looked like before Toni Preckwinkle became Alderman, it looks like a miracle on the lakefront, and I know that then Alderman Toni Preckwinkle played a key role in making it happen. I want to see the same things happening in other disadvantaged areas on the Southside, Westside, and north sides of the city.

I know that Toni can make it happen because she has already proved that she knows how.

My daddy taught us that it's difficult to lead where you haven't been. He was fond of saying I would rather see a sermon than to just hear one any day. I would rather that you show me how its done than merely point the way.

Much of the conversation during this campaign has been about change and I do agree that we do need it and Toni has been and will continue to be a change agent. She has led the way and worked cooperatively with Chief Judge Tim Evans, Dr. Willie Wilson, Kim Foxx and Sheriff Tom Dart, the Illinois General Assembly, Rev. Jesse Jackson and other like myself to reduce the number of detainees at the Cook County jail.

Toni is totally committed to neighborhood and community redevelopment and has generated creative programs to expand the neighborhood opportunity fund, she will raise the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour and will triple investments in small business micro loans for minority owned businesses, a comprehensive job training and placement program for youth and programs to help young parents to better understand how to raise children.

Dr. Quentin Young, President John Stroger and Ruth Rothstein did much to improve healthcare for the low-income residents of Cook County but it has been Toni Preckwinkle who enrolled 480,000 people into the county care program, most of whom came from Chicago.

As a former teacher, President Toni Preckwinkle is committed to providing education for all of our children.

These are difficult and challenging times so I ask you Chicago.

Are you willing to take a chance on a great prosecutor, a well-learned individual, an outstanding lawyer, a superb orator with great sounding ideas; but never having been elected?

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Or would you rather bet on a true public servant, a warrior who has labored in the vineyards, fighting her way up through the ranks from school teacher, to program developer to Alderman, to managing the affairs of the second largest county in the country and now to take Chicago, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in the nation to another level of its destiny to be one of the most outstanding cities in the world.

There are those who live by their creeds for to see work put into action is what everybody needs. I soon can learn to do it if you let me see it done. Toni has shown us.

I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue is too fast it may run, and the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, but I'd rather get my lessons from what you do, yes like my father often said, I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day. Toni has lived the sermon and we have benefitted from her public work.

I'd rather one walk with me than merely tell me the way, the eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear, fine counsel is confusing, but example is always clear.

And the best of all leaders are the men and women who prove what they say. Though there are able speakers who charm me with their eloquence, I say still, I'd rather see what you've done than just go by what you say.

We've seen what Toni Preckwinkle has done and that's why she is my candidate and I highly recommend her to you for Mayor of Chicago.

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