

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Demmer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Tumultuous 2020* Oral History project

Interview # T20-A-L-2021-069

Tom Demmer, an Illinois State Representative, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Tumultuous 2020* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: December 30, 2021    Location: Dixon, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed.

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:16 / 1.27 hrs.

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The interview(s) is/are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Thomas Demmer, *Tumultuous 2020*, T20-A-L-2021-069

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Tom Demmer was born in Dixon, Illinois, in 1986. He grew up in Dixon and attended St. Anne Elementary School before attending Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling, Illinois. At Newman, Tom participated in football and basketball. Demmer attended Dayton University where he majored in communications with a minor in political science. He graduated in 2005 and returned to Dixon shortly after. He began working for Katherine Shaw Bethea (KSB) Hospital as the Director of Strategic Planning. He later served on the Lee County Board. In January 2013, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives to serve the 90<sup>th</sup> District, which at the time of the interview, includes parts of DeKalb, LaSalle, Lee, Winnebago, and Ogle counties. At the time of the interview, Demmer was serving on a variety of committees, such as the Appropriations-Human Services, Prescription Drug Affordability, Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), Human Services, Ethics & Elections, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and Medicaid Committees. He was a 2016 Henry W. Toll Fellow with the Council of State Governments and has served on the Board of Directors of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home Preservation Foundation.

Demmer details the challenges presented by COVID-19 to residents, businesses, local governments, medical centers, schools, and essential services in the 90<sup>th</sup> district through the lens of a State Representative. Demmer describes the impact of the virus to KSB Hospital and the functions of state government. This includes the way the general assembly had to operate to adhere to COVID-19 precautions, such as meeting at the Bank of Springfield Convention Center, limiting the number of bills discussed, and more. Demmer covers later sessions that were held between March of 2020 and December of 2021. Demmer details his perspective on the various legislative issues that COVID-19 brought about, including use of federal aid, unemployment claims, and the determination of who is essential.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** COVID-19 pandemic; impact of COVID-19 pandemic; Illinois State Representative; 90<sup>th</sup> House district; DeKalb, Lee, LaSalle; Ogle, and Winnebago counties

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