



Is it just history repeating?

There are three African American candidates running for the same Illinois Supreme Court position in the March 17, 2020 Presidential Primary election. What is of note is that of the total of seven candidates running in this race, one of the African American candidates, Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr. already holds that position. He is a sitting Illinois Supreme Court Justice.

Justice Neville was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Charles E. Freeman, the first black person to sit on Illinois' highest court and a person of historic stature. Justice Neville, who was recommended by Justice Freeman, was sworn into office on June 15, 2018 and is serving a term that is effective until December 7, 2020. Justice Neville is now only the second black justice in the Illinois Supreme Court's 170-year history.

All would agree that Justice Neville is highly qualified, has significant judicial experience at all levels of the Illinois courts, has superior judicial temperament, is principled, has integrity and the professional courage to fight for what is right; and just as importantly, is a man of the black community who is committed to justice for all and equal protection under the law.

So, here is our challenge:

Is Appellate Court Justice Cynthia Cobb qualified to sit on the Illinois supreme Court?

Yes.

Is Appellate Court Justice Nathan R. Howse qualified to sit on the Illinois Supreme Court?

Yes.

Do both have the right to run for the seat Illinois Supreme Court Justice Neville holds?

Absolutely.

In 1985, did Alderman Tim Evans have every right to run for Mayor against Mayor Eugene Sawyer with Richard Daley salivating on the thought of a split black vote and stomping into City Hall and excluding another black from wielding that much power for the next 30 years.

Yes.

Did that seminal event, change the pace of progress for the black community in ways beyond count?

Not even debatable. It did and does through to this very day.

So the question for our community is: **have we learned from our history; have we gained the political dexterity not to shoot ourselves in our collective foot....or is this**

Just a little bit of history repeating.....