

TOMMY GEORGE THOMPSON

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Over the course of my lifetime, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve the wonderful people of Wisconsin in a variety of ways, including as a legislator, governor and University of Wisconsin System President. I truly love this state and believe there is no better place to live, work and raise a family.

During my tenure as UW System President, as the state and nation continued to battle the Covid pandemic and the surging omicron variant, I committed myself to ensuring the University remained open and safe. I had a job to do, and I performed that job to the best of my ability. At the same time, I could not help but consider the greater needs of the state and the need for new and different leadership in the office of the governor.

Since moving on from my UW post, I have spent the past few weeks talking with – and more importantly, listening to – Wisconsinites all across the state from varying backgrounds and experiences. I've considered the views of the family I love as I surveyed entering the race for governor. I've been reminded of my amazing family, my wonderful friends and the many opportunities over my lifetime to lead and serve.

After much thought and difficult deliberation, I can share with you that I have decided against another race for governor.

This is a very difficult conclusion. After a full life of service and leading and growing businesses, I know I have the vision, drive and vitality to serve another term as governor. Wisconsin needs strong leadership to bridge political divides, care for our most vulnerable, set our economy on a path to succeed in the 21st-century, and again make us the shining star of the nation. I would have brought those qualities and commitment as governor.

I am open and will continue to investigate how I may otherwise serve. I remain determined to participate in efforts to address the problems that face us all.

I so appreciate and want to thank the many friends and supporters who have expressed their gratitude and who encouraged me to run. I have so appreciated the thoughtful conversations and comments from individuals across the state who have stopped to talk to me about our shared love of this state.

I remain optimistic about the future of our state and nation. You can count on me to continue to find opportunities to lead and serve as – together – we discover new paths to heal our political divides and lift up our way of life to ensure its promise to my grandchildren and yours. Wisconsin is truly the best state in our great nation.