

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Christine Johnson

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Public School Funding Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-003

Christine Johnson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Public School Funding Oral History* project.

Date: Jan 23, 2019 Location: Sycamore, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:21 / 1.35 hrs.

Interview being
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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Christine Johnson, *Education is Key*, EF-A-L-2019-003

Biographical Information/Overview: Christine Johnson was born in Rockford, Illinois March 1960. She grew up on a farm outside of Lee, Illinois and graduated in 1978 from Shabbona High School. While there, she participated in choir, madrigals, school plays and also worked at Shabbona State Park. She graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1983, having majored in journalism and public relations. Christine worked at Shabbona State Park until 1994, then was appointed as DeKalb County Treasurer, an elected position she held through 2011. Then, she was appointed to the Illinois Senate (35th District) serving through 2013. In 2013, Christine was reappointed as the County Treasurer, a position she held at the time of the interview. In addition, Christine served as Republican Precinct Committeeman (1984-present), Legislative chair for the Illinois County Treasurers Association and has also served as President of that Association. She was recognized as County Treasurer of the Year in 2003 and has served as a State Director for the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers.

Johnson discusses her duties as County Treasurer and talks about the property tax cycle. Some of her roles included distributing funds to local governments (186 taxing bodies), collecting taxes, licensing mobile homes and being involved in the state of Illinois Senior Citizen Relief program. DeKalb County is sixty-six percent residential, eighteen percent commercial, eleven percent farmland, and five percent industrial. Northern Illinois University is found in the county and is a tax-exempt property. Christine discusses the role of wind farms and its taxable benefit to local school districts. She also talks about the role of TIFs, (tax increment financing PTELL, and enterprise zones in the county. She reflected on her two years as a state senator, where she served on the Education and Higher Education Committees.

Subject Headings/Key Words: property tax cycle; role of Illinois county; wind farms, non-profits and taxes; Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Senior Citizen Relief program; DeKalb county, Illinois; licensing of mobile homes; training of County Treasurers; Illinois state Senate

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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