

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ava Harston

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Agriculture in Illinois-School Reorganization* Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2012-021

Ava Harston, a member of Illinois's Classroom First Commission in 2011-2012 working on district efficiency issues, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: May 16, 2012

Date: May 16, 2012 Location: Westmont, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPLM Volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
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Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 0:58 / 0.96 hrs

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

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# Abstract

## Ava Harston, Agriculture in Illinois, AI-A-L-2012-021

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ava Harston was born in Chicago on July 20th, 1954. She graduated from Mother McAuley High School in 1972. Ava earned a Bachelor Degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle in 1979, majoring in Elementary Education and earned a MA degree in Industrial Relations from Loyola University. She started her career teaching in the Chicago Public School System. Beginning in 1991-94, she worked with the Illinois Federation of Teachers and returned to field service work in 2006. She also worked for the Chicago Teachers Union. Ava was named to represent the Chicago Teachers Union as their representative to the Illinois Classroom First Commission in 2011. This interview reviews her experience on the Commission and her work on the sub-group within District Efficiency. Ava is married and has two children. Her certificates are in the area of School Administration and Early Childhood.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Classrooms First Commission; School Reorganization; Chicago Public School System; Chicago Teachers Union; Illinois Federation of Teachers; public hearings; 2 year school budgets; 1985 Educational Reform Act; teacher pensions; obstacles for reorganizing school districts; Article 5 of the 1970 Illinois State Constitution; virtual consolidation

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