

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sean Vinck

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Quinn* Oral History project

Interview # ISQ-A-L-2021-019

Sean Vinck, who worked in several senior staff positions with Pat Quinn, both while Quinn was Lt. Governor and Governor, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Quinn* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: June 9 & 10, 2021      Location: Vinck's office at 2 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL  
Date: Jun 17 & 21, 2021      Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

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

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

Transcript being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 2:20 + 2:30 + 1:32 + 0:58 / 2.33 + 2.5 + 1.53 + 0.97  
= 7.33 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, education & career through experiences with Lt. Gov. Quinn

Session 2: Legislative counsel & Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs for Gov. Quinn

Session 3: Experiences as the Chief Information Officer for Quinn since Feb 2011

Session 4: Election of 2014

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 21, 2021.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

### Sean Vinck, *Illinois Statecraft - Quinn*, ISQ-A-L-2021-019

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Sean Vinck was born in July 1979 in Chicago, Illinois and spent his formative years attending Catholic schools on the near south side of Chicago until attending high school at Lake Forest Academy, graduating in 1997. He then attended Notre Dame University, where he majored in a great books program, graduating in 1997. He continued at Notre Dame, earning a law degree in 2004 and a master's degree in political science in 2006. By that time, Vinck was also working on Illinois Speaker Mike Madigan's Democratic caucus staff, and in 2006 moved to the Illinois Appellate Court in Chicago.

Beginning in February 2007 Sean began working on Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's staff as a legislative counsel. Quinn had an ambitious agenda in that regard, contrary to most lieutenant governors and they were successful in several key pieces of legislation. Following Gov. Rod Blagojevich's arrest in December 2008 and his removal from office in late January 2009, Vinck became Governor Quinn's Chief Legislative Counsel in February. It was a very challenging time, as the state faced not only an ethical crisis, but was in the midst of the housing collapse beginning in 2008 and the Great Recession which resulted in a severe economic downturn and a deepening fiscal crisis. Vinck talks about how the administration dealt with each of these, the initial attempt to raise taxes in 2009, the success to do the same in 2011 following Quinn's election as governor in 2010 and significant pension reform which established a two-tier pension system. Vinck served as Quinn's Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs from October 2009 to February 2011, then became the Chief Information Officer until the end of the Quinn administration. During this time Vinck introduced many efficiency initiatives that extended throughout the state's many agencies. He also continued to serve as a close advisor to Gov. Quinn and discussed many of the governor's most important policy initiatives at length. In 2013-2014 he helped Governor Quinn's unsuccessful reelection campaign in a voluntary basis, careful to do so only on evenings and weekends.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Gov. Pat Quinn; Illinois Chief information Officer; Illinois 2010 budget negotiations; Gov. Rod Blagojevich impeachment and trial; implementation of Affordable Care Act in Illinois; Illinois Income Tax increase of 2011; pension reform of 2010; gubernatorial campaign of 2010; gubernatorial campaign of 2014; Senator Bill Brady; Bruce Rauner; Speaker Mike Madigan; civil union legislation; elimination of IL death penalty

**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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