

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with State Rep. Rita Mayfield

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – School Reorganization Oral History project

Interview # AIR-A-L-2019-048

Rep. Rita Mayfield was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – School Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 22, 2019 Location: Waukegan, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:22 / 1.37 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 20, 2019.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Rep. Rita Mayfield, *Education is Key*, AIR-A-L-2019-048

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Rita Mayfield was born in Waukegan, Illinois. She attended Waukegan schools, graduating from Waukegan West High School (Raiders). Following graduation, Rita earned a BS degree from Columbia College in Chicago, majoring in computer science, and later earned an MS and MBA from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois in the field of management organization. Her work experiences include the local newspaper, PACE transit, Lake County Health Department, and with Goodwill Industries at Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago. Mayfield served as vice president on the Waukegan School Board before becoming a state representative in 2010. She currently is the chair of the House Appropriations – Education Committee. Other committee assignments include Human Services, Public Safety, Community College Access and Affordability (Vice Chair), Elementary and Secondary Licensing, Judiciary, Labor and Commerce, and Public Utilities, as well as the Aging Workforce. Rep. Mayfield also serves on the Waukegan School District Foundation Board, is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and was a founding member of Citizens Organized for School Leadership Accountability (COSLA).

Rep. Mayfield discusses school reorganizations in Illinois and House Bill 3050, which created a twenty member School Efficiency Commission. The Commission examines and recommends possible mergers of elementary and high school districts. The bill seeks to avoid duplication, thus lowering the property tax burden, providing greater student educational opportunities, reducing administrative costs, and saving state dollars. The Commission reviews and suggests proposed tax levies and optimal enrollment for the new school districts and seeks to place these recommendations on the ballot. Voters in each listed district would then vote whether to reorganize. She seeks to reduce the number of school districts in Illinois by twenty-five percent. Mayfield also talks about the new Evidence Based School Model, the new State Infrastructure Capital law, and serving on the Waukegan School Board. House Bill 3050 passed in the Illinois House by 107-0 but was held up in the Senate at the time of the interview.

Subject Headings/Key Words: school reorganization in Illinois; School Efficiency Commission; Illinois House Bill 3050 of 2019; school funding in Illinois; Evidence Based School Funding model; Capital Infrastructure Bill;

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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