

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rob Grossi
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Public School Funding Oral History project
Interview # EF-A-L-2019-056

Rob Grossi, Bloom Township Trustees of Schools treasurer, 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: August 21 2019 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 5, 2020.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Rob Grossi, *Education is Key-Funding*, EF-A-L-2019-056

Biographical Information/Overview: Rob Grossi was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois in 1963. He graduated from Homewood Flossmoor High School in 1982, and then attended college at Indiana University majoring in Finance. After graduating in 1985, Rob attended Notre Dame and earned an MBA in 1986. In 2013, Rob earned an EdD in Educational Leadership from Western Illinois University in Macomb. He has worked at the Bloom Township Treasurer's Office, serving as their township treasurer since 1986, and held this position at the time of the interview. In this position, Rob works with eighteen school districts, including five outside of Bloom Township. Rob has also worked with the State Board of Education to help two school districts in financial distress. He has frequently testified to the Illinois General Assembly on school funding and accounting matters.

Grossi discusses the position of Township School Treasurer, which was created in 1819. In 1962, the General Assembly abolished the position in 101 counties, excluding only Cook County. At the time of the interview, thirteen Township School Treasurers exist in Cook County. Grossi also outlines the duties of the Township School Treasurer and its role in dealing with federal, state and local revenue. Other topics discussed include the role of the Township Trustees. Grossi discusses some of the advantages of consolidating treasurer offices, the impact of the accountability changes in the New Evidence Based funding model, late payments by the State Board of Education during the financial crisis and the state's budget stalemate, and treasurer certification requirements. He reviews the division of responsibilities with district business/payroll officials, handling local funds, charging fees to districts, differences in cash/accrual accounting, and the required filing of various state/federal reports.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Bloom Township Schools; state board of education; evidence based school funding model; Illinois budget; Township School Treasurers; Bonding for Township School Treasurers

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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