

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Quinn

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Project Name* Oral History project

Interview # ISQ-A-L-2021-001

Thomas B. (Tom) Quinn, the younger brother of former governor Pat Quinn, 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: Jan 5, 13 & 20, 2021

Location: Interviews were conducted telephonically due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

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

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

Transcript being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 2:07 + 1:29 + 1:24 / 2.12 + 1.48 + 1.4 = 5 hours

Session 1: Early life, brother Pat's petition drives, and Cutback Amendment

Session 2: Brother's career from 1982 through Lt. Gov. years to 2008

Session 3: Pat Quinn's governorship, and his life beyond the governor's office

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

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

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## Abstract

### Tom Quinn, Illinois Statecraft-Quinn, ISQ-A-L-2021-001

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Thomas B. (Tom) Quinn was born on February 5, 1952 and grew up in the community of Hinsdale, a suburb of Chicago. He, like his older brother Pat and younger brother John, attended Fenwick High School, a Catholic prep school in Oak Park, Illinois, graduating in 1970. Tom soon began helping his brother Pat with Dan Walker's 1972 gubernatorial campaign. That started a life-long involvement in his brother's civic and political activities. Tom graduated from Stanford University in 1974, where he majored in economics. He spent two college quarters studying in France, and often balanced time spent on his education with activities helping Pat with various causes, including the Democratic primary in 1974, creation of the Coalition for Political Honesty in 1975 and petition drives in 1976 and 1978. Meanwhile, he also attended Stanford University Law School, earning his degree and passing the bar in both California in 1978 and Illinois in 1979. Tom then began practicing law, specializing in commercial and constitutional litigation in the Chicago area.

Tom talks extensively about the help he gave to his brother's long political career. Highlights of that experience included the creation of the Coalition for Political Honesty in 1975, establishment of the Citizen's Utility Board, assisting with petition drives in 1976 (to abolish legislator's double dipping, conflict of interest voting and receipt of advance pay) and most famously in the successful petition drive that resulted in the Cutback Amendment to the Illinois Constitution. Tom also helped with a series of political campaigns, including Pat's election to the Cook County Board of Tax Appeals, his defeat in 1986 for state Treasurer, and his win in 1990 for the same office. Pat later failed in a bid for Secretary of State in 1994, another defeat in the 1996 Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate, followed by a defeat in the 1998 lieutenant governor Democratic primary, and his election wins in 2002 and 2006 as Lieutenant Governor. Tom helped with each election campaign while balancing those activities with a thriving law practice. Pat served as Gov. Rod Blagojevich's Lt. Gov. from January 2003 through December 2008, then became governor when Blagojevich was impeached in January 2009. Tom helped with Pat's successful election campaign in 2010 as well as Pat's defeat to Bruce Rauner in 2014.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Pat Quinn; Pat Quinn gubernatorial administration; Coalition for Political Honesty; Cutback Amendment of 1980; Citizen's Utility Board; Fenwick High School; father Patrick J. Quinn; mother Eileen Prindiville Quinn; John Quinn; Governor Dan Walker; Gov. Rod Blagojevich; impeachment of Rod Blagojevich; Initiative on Initiatives

**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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