

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Norman Walzer

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

Interview # AI-A-L-2011-067

Dr. Norman Walzer, a scholar who has extensively studied educational challenges in rural communities, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: November 21, 2011      Location: Dekalb, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital Audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue-ALPLM Volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:09.40/ 1. 20 hrs

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

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# Abstract

Dr. Norman Walzer, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2011-067

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Dr. Norm Walzer grew up in Mendota, Illinois and graduated from St. Bede High School in 1960. He earned a B.S. from Illinois State University in economics and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He has worked at Western Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, and University of Illinois - Chicago. He is a past Director of the Rural Institute and now works for the Center of the Government Studies at Northern Illinois University. He has published several books, where he examined the effects of overlapping governments on taxes, expenditures, and employment. Currently, his work centers on examining changes in local governmental structure (1997-2007) and its impact on changes in expenditures and taxes. He is also involved with an examination of Home Rule Governments and population trends, especially in twenty-seven counties with populations of 15,000 or less, and differences in the seventeen Commission Counties and the eighty-five township counties. These studies provide a trend for school districts in the smallest counties regarding population, socio-economic, demographics, employment and unfunded mandates.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Center of Governmental Studies; Northern Illinois University; Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University; county governments, unfunded mandates; rural counties and education; socio-economic changes in rural communities; demographics in rural communities; globalization; intergovernmental agreements; Tax Increment Financing (TIF); Home Rule; Revenue sharing; Regional Planning Council; Tax Caps

**Note 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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