

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Roger Eddy

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2015-045

Roger Eddy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 30, 2015 Location: Roger Eddy residence, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: John Perkins, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:53 / 0.88 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 12/02/2015.

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

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Abstract

Roger Eddy, Illinois Statecraft-Pension Crisis, ISC-A-L-2015-045

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Roger Eddy was born on May 8, 1958 in Ottawa, Illinois, and grew up in Newark, Illinois. His father was a factory worker and his mother a homemaker. He graduated from high school in 1976, then went to Northern Illinois University and earned a B.S. in Education in 1981. He began teaching in Hutsonville, Illinois in 1981 and earned a M.S. in educational administration at Eastern Illinois University in 1987. He served as the Principal at Hutsonville High School from 1987 through 1991. He took the high school principal position at Watseka, Illinois from 1991-1996. He received a Specialist in Educational Administration degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1996 and returned to Hutsonville and assumed the position of Superintendent of schools from 1996-2012. Mr. Eddy was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives (R) and served from 2003-2012. He has been the executive director of the Illinois Association of School Boards from 2012 to present.

This interview reflects the unique positions and experiences Mr. Eddy has with the Illinois state pension systems. His positions as teacher and administrator in Illinois' public school system gave him a solid perspective on the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) of Illinois. This perspective coupled with his role in the legislature, responsible to the public regarding pension policy and funding, offers a special overview of past, present and future effects of state pension systems on all Illinois residents. Eddy's current role as Executive Director of the Illinois School Board Association allows him to play an integral role in the system. He discussed potential solutions to funding problems, including increased responsibility placed on local schools to help meet the increasing demands for funding. Eddy also discussed the effects of the 2015 Supreme Court ruling that declared key provisions of Senate Bill 1 (2013) unconstitutional, including the creation of the Tier 2 retirement system for future teachers, system sweeteners and system sustainability.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Association of School Boards; Illinois Senate Bill 1 (2013); Illinois Association of School Boards; impact of diminished revenue on Illinois's pension system; Illinois pensions and fiduciary responsibility; Early Retirement Options; Chicago's teacher pension system

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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