

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Penny Pullen

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

Interview # ISL-A-L-2020-026

Penny Pullen, an Illinois state Representative from 1977 to 1992 and a life-long pro-life advocate, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Legislators* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Apr 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 2020

Location: Telephonic interview with Penny Pullen in her home in Hudsonville, Michigan and DePue in his Springfield, IL home. Conducted during Covid -19 lockdown

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:13 + 2:14 + 2:06 + 1:02 / 2.22 + 2.23 + 2.1 + 1.03
= 7.58 hrs

Session 1: Early life and early Illinois state legislative career

Session 2: Equal Rights Amendment fight in Illinois

Session 3: Legislative career from 1982 through 1992

Session 4: Post legislative career and Life Advocacy Resource Project

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (3/5/2021).

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

© 2020 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Penny Pullen, Illinois Statecraft, ISL-A-L-2020-026

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Penny Pullen was born on March 2, 1947 in Buffalo, New York, and grew up in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, Illinois. She graduated from Maine Township High School – South in 1965 and attended college at the University of Illinois’s new Circle campus, graduating in 1969. While still in school she began working for state representative Robert S. Juckett, specifically working in his district office following graduation. For the next several years Penny learned a great deal about the legislative process. When Rep. Juckett passed away suddenly in 1975, Pully decided to run for his seat, winning that seat in 1976 during the time when the House used the cumulative voting process.

Pullen talks extensively about her fifteen year legislative career representing the 55th District, including the Cutback Amendment of 1980 which eliminated cumulative voting, an in-depth discussion of the Equal Rights Amendment fight in the late 1970s and early ‘80s, the repeal of the state’s inheritance tax, the temporary income tax increase of 1983 and the vote on a new White Sox stadium in 1988. She was a vocal advocate for pro-life issues throughout her time in the Illinois House. In 1990, Pullen was challenged in the Republican primary by Rosemary Mulligan, who was being supported by national pro-choice advocates. The vote was so close that there was a recount resulting in a tie vote. Pullen lost the coin toss, then appealed that decision. Not until September 1990 did the Illinois Supreme Court rule in Pullen’s favor. In 1992 she lost to Mulligan, who once again received substantial financial support from national pro-choice groups.

From 1992 through 1994 Pullen served as executive director of the Illinois Family Institute, and in 1994 she left IFI to start the Life Advocacy Resource Project, a pro-life not-for profit organization. She is still leading that organization at the time of her interview.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Equal rights Amendment fight in Illinois, 1972-1982; abortion and pro-life advocacy; Illinois state legislature, 1968-1992; State Representative Robert S. Juckett; Life Advocacy Resource Project; Illinois Family Institute; inheritance tax reform; Phyllis Schlafly; Penny Pulen reelection campaign of 1990 and recount; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; Cutback Amendment; temporary income tax increase of 1983; White Sox stadium vote in Illinois legislature

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. “Fair use” criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955