

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ted Dabrowski

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Statecraft-Illinois Pension Crisis* Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2015-053

Ted Dabrowski, Vice President of Policy at the Illinois Policy Institute, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Statecraft-Illinois Pension Crisis* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov. 16, 2015      Location: Santori Library, Aurora, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38

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

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# Abstract

## Ted Dabrowski, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISC-A-L-2015-053

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ted Dabrowski was born in Evanston, Illinois in January, 1964 to immigrant parents. He spent his early years in Chicago and Ecuador. His family then moved to Albany, Georgia, where he graduated from high school in 1981. He earned a BA in industrial management from Georgia Tech University, and a MBA from the Wharton School of Business University of Pennsylvania. Later, Ted graduated from the Harris School of Policy at the University of Chicago. Ted worked in Atlanta and New York City before joining Citigroup. Ted worked for Citigroup for sixteen years in Poland and in Mexico, managing the corporate and investment banking division for much of the time. He was also assistant treasurer of Citibank-Mexico. At the time of the interview, Ted worked in Chicago for the Illinois Policy Institute. He serves as the Vice President for Policy and as the Institute's spokesman. The Center is an independent government watchdog that recommends solutions to the state's economic and fiscal problems. His priorities include the Illinois state budget and tax policy, health care, pension reform, education policy and job creation. Ted was also consultant to the Education Committee for Gov. Quinn's Taxpayer Action Board, tasked with proposing efficiencies in state spending across the various spending programs. Ted has authored documents focused on state funding for education, the general state aid formula, and school vouchers.

This interview explores the problems facing Illinois state pensions and their development over the years. The interview reviews the topics of retirement age, Gov. Jim Edgar's 1995 pension reform, the impact of COLAs on pensions, payouts vs. contributions, and the hidden costs of worker health care. He also addressed problems with pension bond sales, various early retirement plans, the recession's impact on investments, and pension holidays. Also, covered were efforts made by other states related to pension problems, as well as potential solutions to Illinois's massive pension shortfall. The Tier 2 Act was reviewed along with Senate Bill 1, passed in 2013, which was opposed by the Center. Lastly, Dabrowski talks about the impact that the growing pension payments have on other statewide services.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** The Illinois Policy Institute; causes of the pension underfunding; Senate Bill 1 of 2013, and why it was unconstitutional; solutions to Illinois's pension problem; Gov. Jim Edgar's 1995 pension reform; pension cost shifting; implications of taxing retirement pay

**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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