

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mark Boozell

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-028

Mark Boozell, long-time legislative liaison for Secretary of State and Governor Jim Edgar, and Chief of Staff for Governor Jim Edgar, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 18, 2009 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: September 9, 2009 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL Foundation Contract employee, and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteer

Total Pages: 130 pgs Total Time: 1:59 + 2:02 + 1:36 + 1:14 / 1.98 + 2.03 + 1.6 + 1.23 = 6.84 hrs

Session 1: Boozell's early life thru service with Sec. of State Edgar to 1986

Session 2: The Secretary of State years and first year of governorship w/Edgar

Session 3: Years as Gov. Edgar's legislative director, 1992-1995

Session 4: Service as Director of Dept. of Insurance and COS in 1998

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 09/22/2009.

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

Abstract

Mark Boozell, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-028

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Mark Boozell was born on March 4, 1955 in Mason City, Iowa, but spent most of his early years in Loves Park, Illinois. Following high school, he attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and graduated in 1977. He immediately set off for Washington, D.C., in search of a staff position in a congressional office, but when this turned up nothing, he applied for an opening in the Illinois House of Representatives Republican Caucus, and was hired by George Ryan, then minority leader. In 1980, he moved to the Department of Transportation, where he worked as a legislative liaison.

In 1983, Boozell became the legislative director for Secretary of State Jim Edgar, a position he held until he followed newly elected Governor Edgar, where he served as Edgar's assistant legislative liaison. Boozell took over the post as Director of Legislative Affairs in 1992, during a time when the administration was still struggling to balance the budget. Boozell served as Director of the Illinois Department of Insurance, and he also assisted Edgar's educational initiatives with the state legislature in 1997. Boozell returned to work directly for Edgar in 1998 as his Chief of Staff. Much of his work during the last year of the Edgar administration was spent on preparing for a smooth transition.

Following Boozell's many years with Edgar, he worked for Aon, a company based in Chicago. At the time of the interview he worked for the Dykema Law Firm.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois; George Ryan; Jim Edgar; Gov. Jim Thompson; Mike Madigan; James 'Pate' Philip; Philip Rock; Joan Walters; Kirk Dillard; educational reform; 1982 Equal Rights Amendment fight in IL State Capitol

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