

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Toni Waggoner

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Public School Funding Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2018-041

Toni Waggoner, an expert on public school funding in Illinois from 1979 to 2010, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education in Illinois – Public School Funding Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 19, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:05 / 1.08 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 2, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Toni Waggoner, *Public School Funding*, EF-A-L-2018-041

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Toni Waggoner was born in July 1956 in Springfield, Illinois. She attended and graduated from Tri-City High School in Buffalo, IL in 1974. She then earned an associate degree from Springfield College in 1976, and a BS degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1978, majoring in mathematics. In 1996 she earned a MA degree in computer science from the University of Illinois-Springfield (UIS) and then a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Illinois State University in 2014. Following her graduation from college, Toni worked for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) beginning as a data clerk and eventually on school finance issues. Upon her retirement from the State Board, Toni began teaching at UIS. She also coauthored several publications regarding Illinois school finance and served as a ISBE staffer for the Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB).

This interview covers Illinois school funding from 1979 to 2010. In particular, Waggoner discusses the 1999 school formula (equalization/poverty grant) and its components (ADA, EAV, PTELL, CPPRT, Foundation Level, and Hold Harmless). In addition, she talks about how school districts could qualify for one of three distribution methods (equalization, flat grant or alternate method). Challenges related to school funding were explored, including several court litigations. Other topics covered was the effort to set a baseline foundation dollar figure per pupil through the Education Advisory Funding Board and funding for Chicago Public Schools.

Subject Headings/Key Words: school funding for Illinois schools; 1999 IL school funding formula; litigation on IL school funding; Average Daily Attendance (ADA); Property Tax Extensive Limitation Law (PTELL); Education Finance Advisory Board (EFAB); Hold Harmless; Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT); Chicago Public School block grant; poverty grants

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.

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