

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Randy Reitz

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Public School Funding Oral History project

Interview # EF-A-L-2019-031

Randy Reitz, Bond County Clerk from 1995-2017, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Public School Funding* Oral History project.

Date: June 12, 2019 Location: Greenville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

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

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Abstract

Randy Reitz, Education is Key, EF-A-L-2019-031

Biographical Information/Overview Randy Reitz was born in Highland, Illinois in January 1949. He grew up in Greenville, Illinois and attended local schools, including Bond County Community Unit #2 High School located in Greenville. Graduating in 1967, Randy attended the University of Illinois. He returned to Greenville to work in his parents' independent grocery store. He later became its owner, running it with his wife Clarice. While operating the grocery store, Randy also served on the Greenville City Council for sixteen years. In 1995, Reitz became the County Clerk of Bond County, filling a vacancy. He continued to serve in that capacity until 2017. Randy was the President of the Illinois Association of Clerks and Recorders (1999), and also received an award as County Clerk and Recorder of the Year.

Reitz discusses the duties of the County Clerk on the property tax cycle (tax levies and school budgets). His other school funding duties included levying the amount needed to pay any outstanding bonds through a bond schedule, handling school referendums., providing input to taxing bodies on Enterprise Zones/TIFS, and handling the County School Facilities Sales Tax, which passed in Bond County. Other duties he reviewed were registrar of county records (births, deaths, marriages), his work as the clerk for the County Board, collecting taxes, and doing genealogical searches. The working relations with the county board, county treasurer, and county assessor were reviewed. Bond County, founded in 1818, is a small size county in square miles and population. Two-thirds of the tax levy collection goes to the county's public schools. Eighty-six percent of the county land is either residential or farmland. Reitz talks about the election process, which includes use of voting machines, security of the elections, voter rolls, ballot selection, ballot questions, and ballot placement. Early voting was also discussed. Randy also discusses the nine townships which make up Bond County, and the training provided to the county clerks on a yearly basis.

Subject Headings/Key Words: property tax cycle in Bond County, Illinois; tax collection in Bond County, IL; school budgeting in Bond County, Illinois; duties of the County Clerk and Registrar in smaller Illinois Counties; school election referendums; County School Facilities Sales Tax; oversight of county elections

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