

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William Morgan

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Quinn Oral History project

Interview # ISQ-A-L-2019-062

William ‘Billy’ Morgan, a Dunn Fellow and later Senior Press Assistant working for the Gov. Quinn administration, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Quinn* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 13, 2019 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Date: Dec 19, 2019 Location: Crete Public Library, Crete, Illinois

Date: Mar 24, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview during Coronavirus lockdown w/
Billy Morgan in Monee residence and DePue in Springfield
residence

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:53 + 2:27 + 2:29 / 1.88 + 2.45 + 2.48 = 6.81 hrs

Session 1: Early life through selection for Dunn Fellowship to work w/Quinn Admin

Session 2: Experiences with the Gov. Quinn administration

Session 3: Gov Quinn election campaign of 2014, and life as aide after Quinn’s defeat

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (3/4/2021).

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

© 2020 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

William Morgan, *Illinois Statecraft - Quinn*, ISQ-A-L-2019-062

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: William ‘Billy’ Morgan was born in November 1990 in Olympia Fields, Illinois. He grew up in Crete, Illinois and graduated from high school in 2009. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2013, majoring in history. Upon graduation, Morgan received a Dunn Fellowship and began working for the Governor Pat Quinn administration assigned to the press office. While there, he learned how to perform a variety of tasks, including drafting press releases. A year later he switched to the Quinn reelection campaign and was based in Chicago. From his perspective as a junior member of the Quinn staff, Morgan gives an insider’s perspective from one who was just learning about the way both government and politics works in Illinois. He gives insights into the election debates against Bruce Rauner, Quinn’s management and campaign style, his work on the minimum wage, pension reform, marriage equality, on clemency and many other issues.

After Governor Quinn left office following Bruce Rauner’s inauguration, Quinn asked Morgan to work as his aide, with Morgan being paid from Quinn’s remaining campaign funds. The former governor continued to be active in various initiatives, especially on a term limit initiative for Chicago mayors. Quinn also made an unsuccessful bid for Attorney General in 2018. At the time of the interview Morgan continued to assist the Governor on a part time and unpaid basis.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Pat Quinn; press relations during the Pat Quinn administration; marriage equality; temporary income tax increase during Quinn administration; Quinn reelection campaign of 2014; clemencies during the Quinn administration; Dunn Fellowship; Speaker Mike Madigan; Bruce Rauner; term limits for Chicago mayors; minimum wage

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.

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