

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Allen Grosboll

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project  
Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-017

Allen Grosboll, who worked with Jim Edgar in the Secretary of State's office and while Edgar was governor, 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: All interviews conducted at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Dates: May 20, 2009; May 20, 2009; June 4, 2009; July 23, 2009; October 22, 2009 & November 6, 2009

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Edited by: Dr. Mike Czaplicki, ALPLF Foundation contract employee, and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteer

Total Pages: 202 pgs    Total Time: 1 hr + 1:24 + 2:59 + 2:05 + 2:37 + 1:54 / 1.0 + 1.4 + 2.98 + 2.08 + 2.62 + 1.9 = 11.98 hrs

Session 1: Early life to 1981

Session 2: Head of the License Division in Sec. of State office, 1981-1984

Session 3: The Chief of Staff position for Secretary of State Jim Edgar

Session 4: Working as Executive Assistant during Jim Edgar's first term

Session 5: Flood of 1993 & Edgar's second term

Session 6: Edgar's second term, educational reform, MSI & overview

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 02/01/2010.

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

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# Abstract

## Allen Grosboll, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-017

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Allen ‘Al’ Grosboll was born on May 17, 1951 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in nearby Petersburg, Illinois. He attended Eastern Illinois University, where he majored in the social sciences. Upon graduation, he worked as an Illinois Legislative Intern, specifically with House Republicans. Following his internship, he stayed on with the House Republicans, and then worked with the Illinois Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Council from 1977 to 1981.

In 1981, Jim Edgar was appointed as Secretary of State due to a vacancy. Edgar selected Grosboll to serve as the Director of Motor Vehicles. Grosboll worked in that capacity until 1984, during which time Edgar pushed for DUI legislation and the manufacture of license plates by an Illinois industry. In 1984, Grosboll became the Deputy Secretary of State, where he assisted on such initiatives as mandatory life insurance and the construction of the Illinois State Library.

When Jim Edgar was elected governor in 1990, Grosboll was selected as one of several executive assistants in his administration. In that capacity, he monitored several government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Pollution Control Board, the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation and others. At the center of his efforts were conservation initiatives, including the state’s procurement of several tracts of land. Grosboll also worked closely with the Governor during the Flood of 1993, on the state’s budgetary challenges early in the administration, on educational reform both in Chicago and throughout Illinois, and on Edgar’s support for a future library and museum honoring Abraham Lincoln. As a member of Edgar’s inner circle of advisors, he was also consulted on such issues as Edgar’s political options in 1998.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. Jim Thompson; Illinois mandatory auto insurance; DUI legislation in Illinois; Director of Motor Vehicles, Illinois Secretary of State office; Flood of 1993; Illinois State Library building; manufacture of Illinois license plates; Brenda Edgar; Robert Kustra; Mike Lawrence; Joan Walters; Michael Madigan; James ‘Pate’ Philip; Phil Rock; Lee Daniels; Neil Hartigan; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum creation;

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