

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Cinda Klickna

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft - Pension Crisis in Illinois Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2016-004

Cinda Klickna, a longtime educator who served as the President of the Illinois Education Association in 2016, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: January 20, 2016 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL.

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:28 / 1.47 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 2, 2016.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Cinda Klickna, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISC-A-L-2016-004

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Cinda Klickna was born in Morton, Illinois in 1951. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1969, and earned a BA degree in English from the University of Illinois in 1973. She later earned a Masters Degree in English Literature from the University of Illinois-Springfield. Upon graduating with her teaching degree, Cinda returned to District 186 in Springfield, teaching junior high and high school English at several District 186 schools. Klickna also was selected as the President of the Springfield Education Association, both from 1991-1997 and 2003-2005. She became active with the Illinois Education Association and served on its Board for over twelve years, including as its secretary-treasurer, and since 2011 as the president. The IEA has a membership of 133,000, including teachers, support staff, higher education, and student representatives. In addition, Cinda has been a board member to the National Education Association (NEA). As President of the IEA, Klickna is a trustee for the Teacher Retirement System.

Klickna discussed the objectives and functions of the Illinois Education Association and the Teacher Retirement System. She explored the role that the IEA's members play in the development of pension legislation. This included the formation of WE ARE ONE ILLINOIS, an effort by union groups and pension retirees who were affected by Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), a 2013 bill reforming the state's pension system. The organization filed suit, and the Illinois Supreme Court ruled the bill unconstitutional in 2015. Klickna also discussed a 1995 Pension Reform (Edgar's ramp), the impact of compounded COLAs, the creation of Tier 2 employees in 2011, pension holidays, pension bond sales, the temporary income tax, early retirement options, the 5 and 5 early retirement plan, SB 2404 (which did not pass), SB 1, and the 2008 recession. Also discussed was contract language in school district collective bargaining agreements involving "pick up costs" and end of year bumps. Causes of the pension crisis were explored, as well as possible solutions, including taxing retirement pay, expanding the sales tax, pension cost shifting to school districts, challenges to Tier 2 and social security, the 6% pension penalty to school districts.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Education Association and its role in pension discussions; cost of living allowances (COLA); early retirement options for teachers; 5 Plus 5 early retirement; impact of pension holidays; 2011 temporary income tax; bond sales; creation of Tier 2 employees; 1995 Edgar Pension Reform Law; WE ARE ONE ILLINOIS; Senate Bill 1 of 2013; pension language found in local school district contracts

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.

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