

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Blanchette

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft Oral History project

Interview # ISQ-A-L-2015-032

David Blanchette, who served as an assistant press secretary for Governor Pat Quinn from 2013 to January, 2015, 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: Aug 27 & Sep 1, 2015 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:36 + 1:31 / 1.6 + 1.52 = 3.12 hrs.

Session 1: Joining Gov. Pat Quinn's press team and early experiences on his staff

Session 2: More on Gov. Quinn and the 2014 election against Bruce Rauner

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 6, 2015.

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

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Abstract

David Blanchette, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISQ-A-L-2015-032

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dave Blanchette was born on January 23, 1960 in Kankakee, Illinois. The family moved to Jacksonville, Illinois in 1972. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism at MacMurray College in Jacksonville in 1982. Thereafter, Dave worked as a reporter and the radio news director at WJIL-WJVO Radio in Jacksonville from May 1979 through November 1987, then he became the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. In 1989 he moved to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), serving as agency PIO until 2013. (See David interview in *IHPA Legacy* project, which covers the IHPA years.)

In March, 2013 Blanchette joined the Governor Pat Quinn (Democrat) administration, working in the governor's press office. His specific assignment for Quinn was to maximize the amount of positive press the governor received from the media, something Blanchette accomplished by sending out scores of press releases targeted at local communities, highlighting one of Governor Quinn's many initiatives, most of which stemmed from his 'Illinois Jobs Now' initiative. Dave talked extensively about Governor Quinn's leadership and management style, and what it was like to accompany him throughout the state. He also discussed Quinn's 2014 gubernatorial campaign in detail, a campaign in which his opponent was wealthy Republican Bruce Rauner. Although Blanchette was not part of the campaign team, in his official capacity he was able to observe Quinn's campaign and political style close up.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Pat Quinn; Bruce Rauner; Brooke Anderson (press secretary); Sean Vinck (chief information officer); 2014 Illinois gubernatorial campaign; Paul Vallas; Governor Quinn on the campaign trail; Illinois Jobs Now; Mike Madigan; Kirk Dillard; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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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