

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Suzanne Deuchler

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Oral History project

Interview # ISL-A-L-2011-016

Suzanne Deuchler, a moderate Republican from Aurora, Illinois and state representative from 1981 through 1999, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 3, 2011 Location: Deuchler residence in Aurora, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: University of Illinois at Springfield

Edited by: Patty Maynor and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 50 pgs. Total Time: 2:08 / 2.13 hrs

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

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# Abstract

## Suzanne Deuchler, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISL-A-L-2011-016

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Suzanne Clark was born on July 21st, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in Shelbyville, in south central Illinois, the daughter of a physician. Following high school in 1947, she attended the University of Illinois, majoring in Spanish. She married Walter Deuchler, an engineering major, during her senior year, and accompanied him to Wright Patterson Air Force Base following graduation while Walter served out his term of service in the Air Force. Following that tour of duty, the couple moved to Aurora, Illinois.

Suzanne soon became involved in a variety of civic activities, including the American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters. She successfully ran for a seat on the Kane County Board, and in 1980 ran for the Illinois House of Representatives as a Republican. Based on key endorsements, she emerged as the top vote getter in the Republican primary, and won the general election in the fall, during a time when Illinois still had multi-member districts. One of her main campaign issues was the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which Illinois had failed to pass up to that point. Deuchler discusses the eventual defeat of ERA and a multitude of other issues throughout her eighteen years of service in the Illinois legislature. She retired from the body following the 1999 legislative session.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois state House of Representatives; Equal Rights Amendment; George Ryan; Michael Madigan; Lee Daniels; Kane County politics; cumulative voting and multi-member districts Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; Dennis Hastert; James 'Pate' Philip; League of Women Voters; American Association of University Women; line item transferability; Phyllis Schlafly;

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