

An Interview with Carol Frederick
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – ERA Fight in Illinois Oral History project
Interview # ISE-A-L-2018-062

Carol Frederick, teacher, lobbyist, public affairs consultant and activist for women's equality, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – ERA Fight in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 27 & Oct 24, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,
Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. Jan Droegkamp, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:24 + 0:53 / 1.4 + 0.88 = 2.28 hrs.

Session 1: Early career and involvement with ERA movement

Session 2: Lobbying efforts to pass ERA in early years, and political aspirations

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 13, 2019.

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

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Abstract

Carol Frederick, *ERA Fight in Illinois*, ISE-A-L-2018-062

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Carol McDowell Frederick was born to parents Jim and Lorene McDowell in November 1940 in Harrisburg Illinois. Her father was a mechanic and the couple were also business owners of a small grocery. Carol graduated from high school in 1958 and received her BA degree in English from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIUC) in 1962. She married while at the university and later in life was widowed with two daughters, Melanie and Michelle. Following graduation, Carol taught speech, composition, language arts and English/American literature in junior and senior high schools in Chicago, Wood River and Springfield, Illinois. After eight years of teaching she took a job as the membership development/campaign coordinator for the Illinois Education Association (IEA).

Frederick was very active in the fight for the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) leading up to the Illinois legislature's vote in 1972 while she was an intern with the IEA. Her next move was to serve as the Coordinator of Legislative Affairs for the National Business and Professional Women's Clubs, working as a lobbyist. From 1977-1980 she was appointed by Governor Jim Thompson as the Chairperson of the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission, later renamed the Illinois Human Rights Commission. From 1980-1982 she served as the Director of Illinois Planned Parenthood Council, which called for lobbying and coordinating legislative strategies. Carol received her MA in political studies and public policy at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) in 1997, and worked at UIS as Coordinator of the Illinois Campaign Finance Project. From 1982-2010 she owned her own business, Carol Frederick and Associates, in Springfield. As a political affairs consultant, she specialized in business, trade and professional associations.

In 1975 Carol was selected as an Illinois Republican delegate, one of 52 statewide delegates, to attend the United Nations International Women's Conference in Mexico City. Carol discussed in detail the lobbying efforts for passage of ERA in 1972, the first year it was addressed in the Illinois legislature. In 1976 Carol made a bid for State Representative, representing southern Illinois. Her many activities and organizations include: member of Family Service America, former member National Women's Political Caucus, state chair of the Illinois Women's Political Caucus, board member for Fifth Street Renaissance, a homeless organization, and co-founder of NETWORK, an organization of women involved in government in Illinois. She has given numerous panels and helped educate future lobbyists.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Equal Rights Amendment; fight to pass ERA in Illinois; Southern Illinois University Carbondale; University of Illinois Springfield; Illinois Education Association; National Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission; Illinois Planned Parenthood Council; Illinois Campaign Finance Project; Carol Frederick and Associates; International Women's Year Conference of 1975-Mexico City; ; National Women's Political Caucus; Fifth Street Renaissance.

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