

Liz Abzug

Daughter of U.S. Representative Bella Savitzky Abzug of New York

Running in a New District

Liz Abzug details the challenges posed by her mother's new congressional district in the 1972 election.

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You know, it's still reaching people, it's still—there were more maybe celebs involved in terms of—at the time, you know, having Barbra Streisand involved and Louise Lasser and some of the, at the time, well-known actors—Harry Belafonte—in the West Side. And then Riverdale, which you know, and some of the Bronx—well, that area, Riverdale, is, you know, almost suburban in a sense. It's not but—it's part of the city, but—so yeah, I mean, it wasn't as, you know—you had to reach people who lived in private houses and in apartments on the Upper West Side, and then you had to reach NYCHA—you know, the district went through Harlem on the west, so you had to reach all the people who lived in public housing as well. So it was an integrated district, but it was a different kind of district. It wasn't as ethnically diverse as the Lower East Side. But the challenges were the same: how to reach the voters. And you know, at that time, we used posters. You'd go up lamp posts and put up posters all over the city. You'd slap them on everything and everything that you could find. You know, picture posters of the candidates. And, you know, in the middle of the night. You'd put them all up and then the other opposing side would come down in the middle of the night and take them down and put theirs up. And plastering them on buildings, on light posts, on everything.