

**The Honorable Shelley Berkley**  
U.S. Representative of Nevada (1999–2013)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**A Fast-Growing District**

Representative Berkley details the challenges of campaigning in a transient district.  
*Interview recorded July 22, 2019*

I used to talk to Members of Congress that told me that, you know, ones that had been there for quite a while, and they were telling me that 20 years ago they were—when they knocked on their constituent's door when they were first campaigning, they left a little sapling, a little tree, and they went back to the same door every election. And 20 years later, the little saplings that they had been giving out as a campaign gift, if that's the right word, were now large, beautiful, blossoming trees. But whenever they knocked on the door year after year, election after election, the same people answered. In my district, it could not have been more different. There's tremendous transience in the Las Vegas area, and it—so you, from year to year, you could knock on the same door, and there's an entire new face opening the door. Also, you're, you're not only reintroducing yourself to those that have voted for you, but you're constantly introducing yourself to the new people that were coming in to your congressional district. There were, I think at one point I had 7,000 new residents a month coming into my congressional district. So you add that up by two years when you start campaigning again, and you got a whole new set of people that are coming in that don't know you at all. And so I would say that was a bit of a challenge.