

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“I’m Not Wishy-Washy”

Representative Berkley describes her 2000 campaign button design.

Interview recorded July 22, 2019

Well, it’s a great button, but every year we change the logo. And every year I, I can say without fear of contradiction that I thought my campaign logos were outstanding. Always did red, white, and blue. I thought that was very, very important. After all, I was a federal official, or at least aspired to be, and the colors of the country and the flag are red, white, and blue. So I thought that was important, and that, that button that you’re talking about was definitely red, white, and blue. Had the state of Nevada in it because I never wanted people to think and I never did—I came home every single weekend for the 14 years that I served in Congress. It was a job with a very long commute, but it was important to be home, and it was important to, obviously, be, be in Washington during the week. But the state of Nevada, there’s a little Nevada logo on it, and it’s, I liked a square button because I’m, I’m very definite, and I think—well, it’s not a square. It was a rectangle, but it had, you know, four sides, and I thought that was important because I’m not wishy-washy. And, and I thought it was also important to have your name very large on these, on the campaign buttons and, so that, that logo just said it all. It was also, if I’m not mistaken, the year 2000, which was a, you know, new millennium, and you’re running in a new millennium. And I thought that that was great, also, that it had the date on it.