

## **The Honorable Barbara Boxer**

**U.S. Representative of California (1983–1993) and U.S. Senator of California (1993–2017)**

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

#### **The House and Senate**

The Honorable Barbara Boxer compares the difference between her House and Senate service.

*Interview recorded November 29, 2018*

Oh, it's a huge difference. The difference is even as a freshman in the Senate, you have so much more power. You have as much power as committee chairmen have in the House. So it's an, it's an instant powerful position. Why do I say that? One Senator can hold up everything. One Senator can stop everything. And, you know, so much is done by unanimous consent. So if you, so when I went to the Senate, and I said, you know, one of my lines was, "The bad news is Jesse Helms can stop everything until he gets what he wants. The good news is so can I when I get there," you know. And, you know, I was known to do that. I was feisty. I was—so there's a lot more power invested in every Senator from the minute they get there if you really know the rules, and, of course, I was learning the rules very quickly because I had served so much in the House it was very helpful. But it's a very different place.