

The Honorable Donna F. Edwards
U.S. Representative of Maryland (2008–2017)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Lifelong Interest in Politics

Representative Edwards recalls her early passion for politics.
Interview recorded June 29, 2018

Well, I think I always had an interest in politics. When I was, I think, 15 years old I volunteered on my first campaign. It was a gubernatorial campaign out of New Mexico where we lived, stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base. And I volunteered on that, that campaign, and it was scrappy, and the candidate ended up winning, which was really a great feeling. And I had always actually volunteered on political campaigns through high school. I was part of the Peanut Brigade for Jimmy Carter. That was, he was the first President I voted for. And, and so I always loved politics. Around our dinner table we talked politics all the time. We were not allowed to watch television really and so we talked politics. And in fact, at our dinner table each one of us, there were six of us, had to bring an issue of the day, and it really didn't matter how little you were. And then we'd get to discuss those issues around the table. And so we discussed foreign policy issues, and we discussed domestic policy. And, and, so, I feel like my interest in politics really was more in policy because it stemmed from the, you know, the dining room table.