

The Honorable Jill Lynette Long Thompson
U.S. Representative of Indiana (1989–1995)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Challenging Congressional District

Representative Long Thompson describes the challenges of representing a competitive congressional district.

Interview recorded June 15, 2017

It's a, it's a real challenge because no matter what you do—and it doesn't matter, even if you're a Democrat in a very Democratic district—no matter how you vote on something, no matter what you say, there will be someone in that district or a group of people in that district who really don't like what you said. But when you are, when you are a Democrat representing a very Republican district or a Republican representing a very Democratic district, it's, that's all magnified. And so, it, everything I did was under the microscope and it was, it was very challenging. And, keep in mind, I ran for election in 1988 and then in a special election in 1989, and then for re-election in 1990, so for three years in a row, I had really intense campaigns, and the latter two years of those were incredibly intense. And so it, it was very stressful but it was very invigorating and rewarding, and it really was just an opportunity of a lifetime. It's sometimes hard for me to believe, growing up as I did, on a farm in the '50s and '60s, that I got to do that.