

**The Honorable Elizabeth J. Patterson**  
U.S. Representative of South Carolina (1987–1993)

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

**Getting Involved**

Representative Patterson describes her early campaign experience before serving in Congress.  
*Interview recorded April 3, 2017*

Later in life, of course, when Fritz Hollings ran against my dad, and my father won, that was another fierce campaign. And I was just out of college, and I had plenty of free time, so I went to a lot of what we call stump meetings. Those are out of the picture now. But I would go to the stump meetings and hand out things for my dad, wear a hat and a banner and whatever, and, you know, ask people to vote for him and hand out things and I would put together groups to meet us at those sort of things—young ladies who would hand out things with the banners on. And so I, you know, helped in that campaign and then helped in a presidential campaign. When Kennedy ran—involved in that campaign, because I wasn't old enough to vote. I've got a big button at home that says, you know, "If I were 21, I'd vote for him." But, again, I got, got involved, and we went to that convention. So the presidential involvement—when Lyndon Johnson ran, you know the South was in hot water at that time. We were facing a lot of issues. But Ladybird came through South Carolina, and I helped organize the "Ladybird Special" and get crowds out for that. So, yes, I've been involved in campaigns for a while. And then, there have been others—races with a good friend who ran for governor and won. People like that. So, just always been involved.