

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Women and South Carolina Politics

Representative Patterson talks about the strides women have made in South Carolina.
Interview recorded April 3, 2017

The women's rights organization in South Carolina is just now really getting to be strong. We really, aside from a couple of groups, it really wasn't organized, it really wasn't outspoken. Groups like the League of Women Voters, which I was a member, would, you know, release a press statement or maybe have a hearing or a press conference. But I don't remember that even being mentioned in '92. Now, it might have been. That was not—it has taken the women of South Carolina a while, and they're still struggling, as I am with them, to, to have our voices heard. You know, a number came up to the Women's March on Washington. A number of them are now organizing that have never organized before. So, it's just taken a while. But they were not that—I never, I never really had a group of women endorse me, aside from nurses. You know, never had women just have a press conference and say they're going to support me—women leaders. Like, when I ran for lieutenant governor, I never had anybody statewide come forward and put together a women's group in, in support, you know. I had women supporting me, but never, never organized, even if people knew of my stand about women's issues.