

**Deborah D. Pryce**  
U.S. Representative of Ohio (1993–2009)

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

### **Intimidating Environment**

Representative Pryce describes how the House evolved from an intimidating environment for women Members upon her election to a place that tried to include and help women advance.

*Interview recorded August 9, 2018*

I never found it unwelcoming. I found it intimidating. But I never felt it was intentionally—anyone intentionally intimidated me. I felt that there was a lot of cluelessness, as there was back then, a lot of it. And it never would have changed but for the fact that more women became elected and women that would help, help the guys understand that our world isn't just white men, that there's, there's much more to it. And I, I saw that gradually change some during my 16 years. And it, you know, there were some visionaries. Newt Gingrich, when he became Speaker, was very conscious of the fact that our party had a long way to go and needed to advance women, needed to put them in the front row at the press conference. Needed to really—we had lightyears, you know, to go. And he saw that and acted on it in many ways.