

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Learning the Ropes

Representative Pryce remembers learning how to find her way on the campaign trail.
Interview recorded August 9, 2018

But there was—along the, along the road it was hard for me to campaign even though I had, had to run for office as a judge. It was just one county, it was much different than this big national “Year of the Woman” kind of election with all the national, national attention. And I remember going to—it was the Greek festival in our, you know, our county, Franklin County—and I just, I’m not natural at, at interrupting people and shaking their hands and I thought oh, everyone’s eating, I don’t want to impose. And my husband said, “Deborah, I’m not attending another one of these events with you unless you shake every hand at every table and they’re going to like you regardless of what you think.” And so I, I think if there was any moment that I learned how to do it, it was that moment. And I did it and I actually enjoyed it. I got over, I think—my, my mother imposed upon me you don’t, you know, that’s rude to do and so it didn’t come natural, but my husband knew, knew how to motivate me and he got me going and after that it was much easier.