

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

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

### **Women Members and their Wardrobe**

Representative Pryce observes how women in politics often faced scrutiny for their wardrobe.  
*Interview recorded August 9, 2018*

When I got here I remember there was a controversy about Susan Molinari wearing a pantsuit on the House Floor and I just was aghast. I could not believe that. I said, "What?" And yeah there was a rule against it. I said, "There was not." And so I never really knew if there was, but by the time I got here there was plenty of pantsuits on the House Floor and, and if there was somebody who didn't like it, you know, "Well, too bad, I don't like your tie either." So, you know, men have been lucky because in their professional life they basically have a uniform to wear. You know, it's a, a suit and tie and, you know, black—or a blue shirt or a white shirt. And, women, you know, little, have a little more flair and so there's more to talk about. But I know that in the press that, you know, I read throughout my career there's always mention of women's clothes no matter what the story is, almost always, and, and men, men don't. I like to think that's because women dress more interestingly.