

Cokie Roberts

Congressional Correspondent and Daughter of Representatives Hale and Lindy Boggs of Louisiana

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“Why Is It Still So Few?”

Cokie Roberts speculates as to why more women don't run for and hold elected office.

Interview recorded May 25, 2017

The majority of graduates of colleges are women. The vast majority of graduates of graduate schools are women. And, and women are in every aspect of American life. It's still, to me actually, the question is the other way around: Why is it still so few? And, and that, I feel that way about all kinds of parts of American life, but particularly in politics. And we know that there are lots of answers having to do with, you know, how difficult it is to move here and to deal with family in two places, and all of that, and, and the expense, and the, the horrors of fundraising for a campaign. And, the fact is that, that women still do not have the same networks of funders that men do. But it's also true that we hear, anecdotally, that women are hesitant to run because it's so nasty. And, of course, that becomes a vicious circle because if they, they are the people who are less nasty. If they don't come, it makes it worse. So that's something that we really need to encourage them to say, you know, “Come on, you can go, and, and you'll survive, and make it better.”