

**Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**  
U.S. Representative of Florida (1989–2019)

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

### **Variety in Leadership**

Representative Ros-Lehtinen explains why she thinks women Members need to serve in leadership positions.

*Interview recorded April 16, 2018*

It is so important to have women in leadership positions, whether it's in your own party's leadership or whether it's committee chairs and subcommittee chairs. Why? Because I think everyone is a role model to somebody else, and, I mean, our hearings are televised and people watch it. You think that C-SPAN is not watched by people but it is. You think that committees aren't covered on TV but they are. And when you see a bunch of folks that are just not of your gender and not of your race and not of your age, you think, "Well gosh, that's not representative of my country and my neighborhood and my—of what I am." So it's important to have women in leadership, it's important to have minorities in leadership. It's, it's important because we want Congress to be representative of the United States of America. And if you just have one particular group chairing committees, you know, a lot of little girls out there, who are looking at the TV, even if they're not thinking about running for office, but they say, "Gosh, that, that's just so homogeneous, we need, we need a little more variety." And, and I think it's important to get variety. With variety, you get different points of views and different ways of tackling a subject.