

**Allyson Y. Schwartz**  
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (2005–2015)

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

### **Gender and Fundraising**

Representative Schwartz shares her thoughts on the role gender plays in raising money for Congress.  
*Interview recorded April 12, 2017*

Yes, I think it's harder to raise money for, for women to raise money than for men, partly because we make less money, and we aren't as comfortable at, or as transactional. I think a lot of men raise money off of, well, we work together, or you knew me from the Rotary Club, or we did business together, or you asked me for your charity and I asked you for my charity or—and women increasing as we have those professional experiences, but it's a little less transactional. More, I think, if anything, we're very much more ideologically based. I would think I raised most of my money based on less transaction and I think, you know, more a, a trust in me and a belief in me, that I stood for the right things; that I would stand up for the, the right issues; that my values were consistent with theirs; that maybe I would also be a little more disruptive to the system, that it wouldn't be the same old, same old, and that was a good thing. Others want to vote for somebody because they want to keep things status quo.