

The Honorable Linda Smith
U.S. Representative of Washington (1995–1999)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

District Challenges

Representative Smith describes the challenges she faced in representing her congressional district.
Interview recorded September 18, 2019

But I had so many towns. I had so many jurisdictions and I knew fully I had to outwork whoever was there because I still wasn't going to take special interest money. And if I could identify the lobbyist, if I could identify the PAC, we just, they just didn't take it. And I knew that that probably, you know, in, in many ways just meant that I had chosen to work harder. Also felt that if those people who wrote me in, I owed them being as close as possible. Just like I always had, but I had a lot bigger area. So I had to schedule really every weekend several events. I made sure I got into all the areas and I'd done that at the senate level but this was a bigger level. And it was fine. You know, it was fine. The election was just kind of like a blur. I remember standing there and going these people did this, they really did. Huh, maybe write-ins do work.