Linda Steele  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Representative Bob Michel of Illinois

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

**House Dress Code**  
Linda Steele remembers how she dressed for work in the early 1960s.  
*Interview recorded June 7, 2016*

When I first started working in the House in 1961, I remember actually wearing gloves to work. Cloth gloves—not winter stuff—this is even summertime. So it was high heels, skirts, and everybody looked nice. And I don’t, I don’t remember what, what year the first time I saw women wearing slacks at work, but it had to have been at, in the ’70s—at least when I noticed it. And I would notice it mostly because, in the Longworth cafeteria—that was when I would get out of the office—it would be good to go lunch. But, yes, it was—the dress codes were—well, now, the—now it wouldn't be a code, but the dressing, the dress culture for women was dressed up, and high heels, and wearing high heels walking on marble floors is, is tough.