

Nicola S. (Niki) Tsongas
U.S. Representative of Massachusetts (2007–2019)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Learning to Campaign

Representative Tsongas recalls the ways in which she helped her husband Paul Tsongas when he ran for Congress.

Interview recorded January 18, 2018

Again, I was always very much a part of the campaign, primarily in terms of being out meeting voters and talking about what he wanted to do. Paul walked the, the county, and I would catch up with him and walk with him at different times, even though I was working at the time, but we would try to coordinate. So when he ran for Congress, I took on a very independent role. I would, had a schedule that I would go out, we would target particular communities, or events that he couldn't attend, but that needed to be, that someone needed to go to, and I would often fill in for him, as did his sister on occasion. So, it was very much a family effort in which we just focused on different parts of the district, and I would do that. And I, I similarly, I did that when he ran for the United States Senate. I actually had someone whose job it was to schedule me all across the Commonwealth, and I would go out, and I would speak about Paul. At that time there was a lot of local radio. So I would go to local radio stations, and would be interviewed. I'd meet with voters. I'd, you know, literally wherever there were voters, I would go. Often had one person with me, and we would just travel the state. So, I got a lot of experience participating in, in the campaigning side of politics and was happy to do that in every round. I always, it was my pleasure to do that, and I always felt very proud of Paul and the candidate that I was out there supporting and advocating for.