Nicola S. (Niki) Tsongas

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Special Elections
Representative Tsongas describes the unique nature of special elections.

*Interview recorded January 18, 2018*

Well what’s really different about that is you’re a standalone election. And you really have to get people’s attention because the bottom line in the end is getting people out to vote when it’s not in the normal cycle of things. So, that was really a challenge we, a challenge we faced. But the hardest part, I think, in any campaign, whether it’s a special or otherwise, is the primary side of it. Because there were five candidates, you’re basically—it’s like a family fight—you’re fighting with people you don’t want to fight with, everybody wants to win, and so it is hard fought. And this one certainly was hard fought. But in the end, the real challenge was getting people out to vote, both for the primary itself, and then for the general election. And so much of our effort had to go into that.