

The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey
U.S. Representative of California (1993–2013)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Standing Out

Representative Woolsey remembers how she set herself apart from the other candidates during her first congressional campaign in 1992.

Interview recorded March 7, 2016

So, I had to figure out how I differed from all these people, outside of being a woman, because that's—you don't run on, "Look at me, I'm a woman." That's obvious; you're a woman. So, I, all of a, you know, and just sitting and thinking, "Why am I so different from all these people that were up here having all these debates with?" We had hundreds of them. And, and I went, "Ding! You were on welfare with your family, when—you know, none of these people have experienced anything like this. You know, you need to talk about it and tell what that experience meant and what you learned from it." And that did it. That was, that identified me as somebody who had walked her talk, who knew—and, and running in the wealthiest, one of the wealthiest counties in the country, Marin County. But they really respected the fact that I'd struggled, and prevailed, and knew what I was talking about.