

**The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
U.S. Representative of California (1973–1979)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Women Members and Fundraising**

Representative Burke encourages women to move into leadership roles by competitively fundraising.  
*Interview recorded July 22, 2015*

Well, first of all, women have to utilize their experience. They are now in many local offices. They need to utilize that. Women have to accept the fact that they have to raise money just as men have to raise money, and it is an important part of the electoral process at this point. It may not be something we would like it to be. We would like to believe you don't have to raise all of these dollars, but it's here. As long as it's here, women have to be part of that process and competitive. So, I think that is really one of the impediments that women are facing, they have, but they have to do it. And you have some who are excellent fundraisers, and others, for some reason, draw away from it. They just don't care for it. And that's important in terms of leadership, moving into leadership roles. It's not on your looks. You get there by organizing, having your colleagues help you, but also being viable.