

**The Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman**  
U.S. Representative of New York (1973–1981)

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

**First Campaign**

Representative Holtzman recalls the importance of reaching voters directly through campaigning in her neighborhood.

*Interview recorded March 10, 2016*

I knew from having represented a part of that district that he was a nonfactor. People—he was a non-presence—people never said, “Oh let’s talk to Celler. Let’s talk to, let’s find out what he thinks. Let’s enlist his support. Let’s get his help.” He was just a non-presence. So, I knew there wasn’t really a strong feeling for him. But as I campaigned around the district—which I had to do personally because we didn’t have the money for media—went to subway stops. We drove around the district. We saw people standing anywhere, we got out of the car. We did movie lines, bowling lines, bingo lines. You name it, we found people anywhere. But the response was really very good. And this also was during the time of the Vietnam War, and I ran as an antiwar candidate. He had been a big supporter of the war, and that was a big, it made a big difference in my race. People who were against the war, who were against the Brooklyn machine, who wanted a different kind of politics, they were supporting me.