

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Christine Radogno
1101 State Street
Suite 210
Lemont, Illinois 60439

13559 Cambridge Drive
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Dear Senator Radogno,

It was with regret that we read of your resignation from the Illinois Senate.

We remember your participation in a League event on September 16, 2013. The program that day was a panel discussion among women in political leadership in Illinois led by Chicago Tribune columnist Mary Schmich. You graciously accepted our invitation along with Illinois House Minority Leader Patty Bellock to represent Republican leadership and Attorney General Lisa Madigan and then Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon representing Democratic leadership.

I specifically remember that Mary inquired as to what had inspired each of you to seek elective office. You and Patty shared similar sentiments as I recall. Each of you had been drawn into politics because of local issues and wanting your local unit of government to be responsive, efficient, transparent and fair. Lisa and Sheila, both daughters from political families, related that they both had grown up with the understanding that public servants could improve the lives of their constituents and they endeavored to do that. I remember thinking that these motivations to seek office were somewhat different but that each perspective and motivation was certainly valid.

I also remember a question about whether any of you thought there were gender differences in how office holders approached their work. Without being too disparaging or disrespectful of your male colleagues, you all had observed that “ego” seemed to play a lesser role for your female colleagues. Recently I’ve heard this phrased slightly differently but I think with the same meaning, “Female legislators tend to be less concerned about ‘being something’ and more concerned about ‘doing something.’”

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, please know that we appreciate and respect what you tried to do by working so hard and diligently to work across the aisle, finding common ground, and putting the public good before partisan interest to negotiate a full year’s balanced budget for Illinois.

We will miss you.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie K. Cox". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Bonnie Cox
President, League of Women Voters of Illinois