

Caroline brings to MSD a diverse educational background as well as previous knowledge of the political scene. She has taught school in England, Rhodesia and in Portland, and is currently President of the Portland Federation of Teachers #111. In addition, she served as an educational lobbyist at the 1977 legislative session.

While teaching at Wilson High School here in Portland, she received the student award as Outstanding Teacher, has served on Schools for the City, an organization of civic leaders designed to monitor school district policy and activities, and was Executive Vice-President of the Portland Federation of Teachers.

She has also contributed her time and efforts to many organizations, helping establish the Kerns Neighborhood Association, serving for three years on the Mayor's Economic Development Committee for the City of Portland, working as vice-president on the Oregon Council of Economic Education and for the Pacific Northwest Labor College.

Caroline received a degree in Philosophy and M.A.T. in Teaching of English from Reed College in Portland and earned a M.A. in English Literature as an Honors Graduate from the University of Arizona.



## Certificate of Election

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Know De, That

CAROLINE MILLER

has been elected to the office of

Metropolitan Service District Councilor, Eighth District

for a term of

four years at the General Election held

November 7, 1978

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be hereto affixed. Done at the Capitol, Salem, Oregon, this

7th day of December, 1978

Secretary of State





## **Introduction to Public History Project A: Digital Archive of Metro Councilors Metro Councilor Oral History Interviews**

## Purpose and Scope of the Project

Since 2005, students enrolled in Portland State University's Introduction to Public History class have been working on a practicum project to research and document the public service of Metro's elected officials, and provide public access to the information through web-based technology.

To date, students have been working with primary resources to research councilors' terms of office, district representation, internal and external committee assignments, policy initiatives, and professional background. In researching the public service of Metro councilors, students have been reviewing councilors' professional papers including (but not limited to) correspondence, speeches, newsletters, calendars, photographs, and information relating to community events, and special engagements/awards.

Another component of the practicum is for students to gain firsthand experience in conducting an oral history interview. Oral history interviewing records a person's recollection of experiences, thoughts and feelings about a specific event or a period of time. It gathers data not available in written records about people, events, decisions, and processes. In essence, oral history is spoken history grounded in memory. It can reveal how individual values and actions shaped the past, and how the past shapes present-day values and actions. With this in mind, students participating in this project have been asked to conduct interviews with Metro councilors to capture their personal reflections and anecdotes regarding their public service; to gather insight about municipal politics; and to further the goal of documenting Metro's history as a public agency.

The Interview Release Form provided below documents permissions and guidelines for the use and custody of the information gathered during the interview process.

INTERVIEW RELEASE FORM	
I hereby give my permission to <u>Aprile</u> look interviewer) to use the information gathered in this interview for educational purposes recoursework in <i>Introduction to Public History</i> at Portland State University. It is my under tape recording will permanently reside in the Metro Archives, and that the transcript of become part of the <b>Metro Digital Archive</b> . Upon review (with minimal revision allowed)	erstanding that this this interview will
claims and rights to this audiotape and transcript.	
Signature of Interviewer: Anoline Millie	
Signature of Interviewer: Walle	
Date of Agreement:	

Last Updated: 10/30/2007

Caroline Miller

## Metropolitan Service District (MSD) Council Oral History Project Interview Questions

- 1. Please state your full name, the council district you represented and its characteristics.
- 2. Please describe your personal background, including things such as when and where you were born, where you grew up, and where you attended school?
- 3. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?
- 4. What were your early career aspirations?
- 5. Describe any people or pivotal events in your life that influenced you in your career selection.
- 6. What inspired you to consider public office?
- 7. What inspired you to seek a seat on the MSD Council?
- 8. What were your years in office?
- 9. What previous experiences prepared you for your work as a MSD councilor?
- 10. What skill sets did you bring to your position as an elected official?
- 11. What skills or other attributes do you think you contributed to the MSD council?
- 12. How did your prior career and experiences influence your service with the MSD?
- 13. What other professional pursuits did you have at the time you assumed elected office?
- 14. Please describe your professional affiliations during your service on the MSD Council.
- 15. What were some of the largest issues facing you and the MSD council as you began your service?
  - a. What challenges did you face from within Metro?
  - b. What challenges did you face (both individually and as a collective council) from outside forces?
- 16. What factors, if any, aided this early work?
- 17. What were the most important challenges facing the MSD during your tenure on the council?
- 18. How did the MSD meet these challenges?
- 19. Describe a typical day in your position as a MSD councilor.
- 20. Please describe your most significant projects and assignments.
  - a. Which gave you the most personal satisfaction?
  - b. What do you consider your greatest accomplishments?
  - c. Are these assignments and projects well documented in your official files?
- 21. How were you selected for these assignments/positions?
- 22. Describe any assignments or projects that you would have handle differently now or wish had been handled differently back then.
- 23. What were the main projects and concerns that you (and/or the council in general) addressed during your years with the MSD?
- 24. Describe the council's relationship with the Executive Office.
- 25. What goals did you have for your service as a MSD councilor?
- 26. How were your goals aligned with the overall goals of the council?
- 27. What vision did you have for the MSD as a regional agency?
- 28. How did your vision align with the vision of the MSD council as a whole?
- 29. How does Metro reflect this vision today?
- 30. As an elected official, what do you believe was your greatest contribution to Metro, the constituents in your district, and to the region as a whole?

- 31. How would you define your greatest disappointment?
- 32. How did the early councilors influence and shape Metro as an organization?
- 33. How do you think you personally influenced subsequent councilors and shaped the MSD council and the agency overall?
- 34. How would you measure your success as a MSD councilor?
- 35. How would you measure the overall success of the MSD during its formative years?
- 36. Who were some of the more interesting and/or prominent figures (elected or otherwise) that you came into contact with during your years with the MSD?
- 37. What special engagements were you invited to or came about as a result of your service?
- 38. Describe any special awards, honors, or distinctions that you received as a result of your service.
- 39. Why did you end your service with the MSD?
- 40. What did you gain from your years as a MSD councilor?
- 41. How did the experience of serving with the MSD influence your life?
- 42. What professional pursuits did you undertake after your term of service ended?
- 43. What organizations have you been involved with since leaving the MSD?
- 44. What connections have you had to Metro since completing your departure?
- 45. Please describe how the role of an elected official changed during your political career.
- 46. How has it changed since you ended your political career?
- 47. How did the MSD and the role of the MSD council differ then from what you perceive it to be now?
- 48. What advice can you give to someone contemplating a career as an elected official?
- 49. What does the future hold for you in terms of your public and/or private pursuits?
- 50. How would you like to be remembered?
- 51. Is there anything we didn't cover that you would like to add?