

Why politics matters, because it does. It affects all our lives, it affects my life, it affects my children's life, it affects my grandchildren's life, and it affects the planet because if you can really have, take care of the problems that we have we need to have people who are really willing to look at the issues squarely, honestly, and make assessments and try and move in the right direction.

The first major involvement I had was with Senator Kennedy's Presidential race in 1980. I was part of the draft Kennedy group here in Massachusetts, and when he decided to announce, I did advance for the announcement. We put together the Presidential announcement in seven days. It was wild, it was wooly, it was exciting, it was fabulous, it was just, you know, a unique experience. And it was, you know, all the funny stories of, Senator Kennedy's Chief of Staff didn't have her invitation and the Secret Service weren't going to allow her into Faneuil Hall. We had to send out these invitations, it was Saturday night, and nobody had stamps. So what do we do? I had a cousin who owned a restaurant, who else has cash on a Saturday night, go down there, give him a check, get the cash, go out to Logan, get the stamps, come back, lick those horrible things, and get them in the mail that night. So, you know, I mean it's sort of the funny stories of, of campaigns. And then I did press advance in the campaign, through the first couple of primaries.

*Off Camera: And then, what was your experience, a lot of people have talked about how it was almost an insurmountable pass, when you're taking on a sitting President who has the bully pulpit, who can use the office of the Presidency. What'd you learn from there, what went right, and what went wrong in 1980?*

The challenges of, of you know, opposing a sitting President within your own party are substantial and, and if you note there are very few times that that actually happens. I think we had assumed that because President Carter's numbers were, you know, pretty, pretty low, you know, I don't know if you remember but interest rates were almost twenty percent, there was a lot of dissatisfaction, you had the hostages, all of these issues swirling around and I really believed in what Senator Kennedy was really talking about. So it was easy for me, Paul supported him and I mean, I've always admired him, I think he's really just a fabulous person who really stood by his principles, but knew how to compromise, which seems to be somewhat lacking these days unfortunately.

Becoming a delegate is a, you know, an interesting process. Mostly it goes to people who have been working in the campaign, who've really put the blood, sweat, tears and dollars into a campaign. There is a process when you go to your Congressional district and you, to the people who are willing to attend that district caucus, describe to them why you think you should be able to be nominated and elected as a delegate. And there are, sort of mostly it's people, either state committee people who have always been very involved, those of us who are just volunteers and very connected to the campaign, and committed to the campaign, and then there's the superdelegates which are appointed, they're elected officials and other, you know, party officials. It's fun, when I was elected to be delegate of, for the Obama campaign, ran in Denver, I stood up and said "well I've done this I was Barney Frank's press secretary, I worked for my brother's campaigns, I did this that and the other thing." And then I was, as Barney's press secretary I said "the one thing I didn't do was kill him." And those people who know and love Barney will understand that there are times when you were really like "ugh." Got a great round of applause and somebody came up to me afterwards and said "that's why I voted for you, it was just your sense of humor." So, you know there's, you really have to work hard, you have to be committed, you have to be known as somebody who's been involved with the campaign and really want to be part of the delegation which nominates the President for your party.

Oh, how do you describe 1992, the decision. The sort of folding out, you know, unfolding of a campaign, the strategy, the people who are involved, you know, how does that all happen. Well, for Paul, as you may remember, it was 90% approval for President Bush, it was right after the Gulf War. And Paul had very strong feelings about the economics of what was happening, the generational responsibility. And, it didn't look like anybody was going to be really willing to step up to the plate. So, in March of '91, Paul announced that he was running for President, and besides, like, the phone calls I got from the press people I knew around the country going "what is with your brother." And I said, "he has something to say and he's going to say it, and this is, you know, the most important venue in which to really articulate what he thinks about what's happening in America and where he wants America to go." So, he called up and said, "well come over to my office tomorrow." I said, "okay," and so I thought, well, you know, I didn't know what he was thinking about, or you know, whatever, but I'd been busy he'd been busy. So I walk over to his office and his business, managing partner of the law firm and Dennis Cannon, his former campaign manager and now

law partner were standing outside the door, and so Paul opens the door, we go in and sit down. And I said, "well what's up?" And he said, "I'm running for President." I said, "oh good, why not?" And Barry White goes, "how could you say why not?" And I said, "because that's how he's always done it. He sees the opportunity, he has something to say, he's articulate about it, nobody else is going to say it so he'll say it, and I'm totally supportive." So off he went, and within a couple of hours later, and this was embargoed information. And so a couple of hours later I'm home and my daughter gets a phone call, a letter saying that she had been accepted at American University, and shortly thereafter Paul called to say, "hey it's going to be in the Globe tomorrow." And I said, "oh good, well you know that's great, and Emily's been admitted to American." And he said "well let me talk to her," and they have this long conversation, it's congratulations, you know all this family stuff, and she hangs up and I say, "well what did Uncle Paul have to say?" "Oh you know, that he's going to run for President." No, congratulations and all that kind of stuff. I said, "what else did he say to you?" And she looks at me and says, "what's he up to Mom?" I said, "well he's running for President." She goes "oh my god," and off we went. And you know, we have always done campaigns because, you know, there's a real reason to do it. And so, I think the way the team assembled was a lot of people who had always been with Paul, in the Congressional race, in the Senate races, and people who had read about him or heard his statements and came in and volunteered. Brian Keene who had, was from around here, his family lives around here. And Brian was often, set up the first office in New Hampshire, and then we sent him off to other states to set up offices. We got some office space and people rallied around him, started raising money and Paul had printed his "Call to Economic Arms," which we distributed around him. What he loved was he'd be in Iowa and somebody would say, "oh, you know, Senator Tsongas, on page 77 you said." And you realized that people were actually hungry for this, they wanted to have, you know, an articulated vision of the, you know, what's happening with the, you know, the globe, what's happening with the environment, what's happening with health care, what's happening with the economy. And on the basis of that is, is how he decided to run. He had something to say and you know, somebody said you know, "he's Greek, he's from Massachusetts, he's had cancer, I mean what is he thinking?" I said, "he's thinking that he has something to say." And he did, and I think we, he was a major part of really talking about the economy and the deficit. And that changed the conversation during that campaign, and the real focus on generational responsibility.

You know, the issues around you know, why is Iowa and why are New Hampshire so important. I think because people really get, in those two instances particularly, very up close views of the candidates. They get to talk to them, they get to shake their hand, it isn't just at a fundraiser, it's at every kind of event, where they can really ask the candidates questions. As I said, in Iowa people would stand up and say, "you know Senator, on page 75, you know you said this, and what does that mean?" And really enter into a dialogue with the candidate. The same with New Hampshire because it's, you know, you start early, you go door to door, you go town to town, you meet people, you build up a constituency that's going to support you. Try and raise the money, and you know the money is always a challenging issue, and especially, you know, in that instance there were a lot of people who really didn't believe that, you know, another Greek from Massachusetts who, you know, had cancer and all this would, you know, generate that kind of money. And in fact it didn't, until later on in the campaign, once we started picking up momentum and after we won New Hampshire money was much easier, but even so it was still a problem. But, you know, you just had to go, and I went on my own running around the country, kept carrying two suitcases and ended up with bilateral frozen shoulders, this was before rolling bags. I love the person who invented rolling bags, they're a lifesaver if you're a candidate or a surrogate.

Well the Obama campaign has really used social media as a way to stay in touch, keep people informed, I mean I get I cannot tell you how many emails or text messages. But I don't use Twitter, that's like, just beyond, 140 characters please, give me a break. If you well and want to say something I think you need a little more than that, but anyway, that being said I think it's really an important way to stay in touch and bring people in, especially the younger generation. You know, I mean they are totally wired, connected between their, you know, their iPhones, their iPads, their computers, you know, they are always in touch. And they communicate with their friends. Facebook, you know people post, I mean I post on Facebook things that I see that I think are really important. So it's really I think an important way of communicating with a generation. And you know, God knows I'm far from that generation and yet I find it very important for me to stay in touch and find out, I mean I check my email first thing every morning to see what's happening, who's doing what, what is the latest on any particular issue and like today, which is when the Supreme Court decided on the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare. I was just, you know, I've

got my phone, I've got my iPad, I want to sort of find out who's doing what. Yes, television, the iPad, the iPhone. I had phone calls, I had emails, and you know I was watching the coverage. So it's, it's an important piece of being able to articulate because everything's in such short sound bites, you need to be able to reach people.

Money in politics, it's inexorably connected to some degree more than, I think, now more than ever. I mean the Citizens United and the impact that has. But even back in '92 you really have had to developed a real background of friends and connections to people to be able to raise money when you want to run for President. I mean it's a very expensive operation. But, you know, that's just the reality. We are heading backward I think, unfortunately, but we shall see what happens in the future. I think there will be enough, hopefully distress, but we'll see, we'll see what the future Supreme Court does. It's, I think it's a challenge for, I mean Paul couldn't run today, you know. I mean the reality is, he didn't have any deep pockets, he had to go out and raise it dollar by dollar and you can't have candidates, even for the Senate races by and large or Congressional races without some real substantial financial resources. And that, I think, is not particularly good for the, for politics and for the country.

Being a superdelegate, the difference between a superdelegate and you know, an elected delegate is that they are usually elected officials or party officials. In terms of roles they may be, you know, more involved on are you going to be on the platform committee, like I was on the platform committee. Are you going to be on the rules committee, you know there are committees so that there are both elected officials and elected delegates, who are superdelegates and elected delegates on these committees, which define policy and you know, other things like that. But basically, when it comes down to it, for instance when it was time to announce the Massachusetts delegates' count at the '92 convention, I had to go around and convince those who were Tsongas delegates to be part of the entire Massachusetts delegation to support then-Governor Clinton and you know, there were some reluctance because there was a lot of loyalty and commitment to Paul. Finally I've got everybody but one, and I will forever adore that man who said, "nope, Paul's my guy." And so I had to stand up and I gave the delegate count, I was co-chair, it was Steve Grossman who's now our Treasurer, and an old friend from years and years and years ago, and it was, it was difficult to do, you know, as the, as the sister, but

you know, you all come together. And even, no matter how hardly fought a campaign could be, it's time to come together.