

# CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN



## BIOGRAPHY

Carol Moseley Braun was born August 16, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. After working as an assistant U.S. attorney with the Justice Department, she successfully ran for the Illinois General Assembly in 1978, where she served for 10 years, rising to the position of assistant majority leader. After a three-year stint as recorder of deeds for Cook County, she won a bid to the U.S. Senate in 1992. She stayed there a full term before being defeated for re-election. President Clinton appointed her ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa from 1999 to 2001. Since then, she has been a consultant, professor, and board member of the Illinois Educational Facilities Authority. Divorced, she has one son.

## OVERVIEW

Senator Moseley Braun's effectiveness as an environmental advocate was limited by her short Senate tenure. Nevertheless, over the course of her single term, she managed to compile a solid voting record that indicates strong support for protecting water supplies and wilderness. She has also been a notable voice on environmental justice issues including pushing for cleanup of contaminated brownfields sites in low income neighborhoods. Her record on nuclear issues, however, has been disappointing: she has supported both expanded taxpayer subsidies for the nuclear industry and the controversial nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Moseley Braun attended LCV's June 2003 presidential environmental debate.

## ISSUE AREAS

Carol Moseley Braun's campaign had not returned LCV's presidential environmental questionnaire as of [date]. Due to her relatively short tenure in the United States Senate, we have included as many of Moseley Braun's environmental votes and legislative efforts as possible in order to illustrate her stance on key issues.

### ► CLEAN AIR

While in the U.S. Senate, Moseley Braun voted against a bill that included several attacks on clean air and public health protections. Among the provisions she opposed were efforts to bar the EPA auto emissions inspection program, limit air toxics from petroleum refineries and provide Clean Air Act exemptions to natural gas processors.<sup>1</sup>

### Carol Moseley Braun Lifetime Environmental Voting Record (1993–1998)

Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Lifetime
LCV Score	69	77	93	77	86	88	80

LCV's Scorecard rates members of Congress on their environmental voting records for each year by assigning them a percentage score. LCV's scores are based on the number of correct votes or actions taken by the legislator versus the total number of votes or actions monitored by the League. There are no excused absences. The lifetime percentage is *not* an average of the yearly percentages.

### ► CLEAN WATER

Senator Moseley Braun has voted in support of strengthening the Clean Water Act. She opposed several attempts to weaken drinking water protections during the 1994-1995 reauthorization of the Safe

## THE CANDIDATE IN HER OWN WORDS

My candidacy springs from a passionate patriotism and a desire to free our country from the clutches of the Right Wing. The Bush Administration has gutted our most powerful environmental laws in favor of business interests, threatening not only our environment's future, but also our health. As President, I will rebuild America, both physically and spiritually: I will renew the enforcement of existing environmental laws; I will continue to encourage responsible development; and I will lead our country towards energy independence and greater international cooperation.

The current administration has slowly but surely taken the teeth out of key environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, leaving us with degraded resources and rising health concerns in the United States. Further legislation exists that has yet to be enforced; for example, laws are already in place to clean up and safely develop brownfields. I will utilize existing legislation for environmental protection, and I will continue the work I began as a Senator to pass legislation for environmental justice. As President, I will work to undo the damage the current administration has done, and focus on the health and safety of all our citizens and the environment.

A Moseley-Braun Administration will solidify the status of the United States as a world leader for years to come. Though the United States has pulled out, the world is moving forward on reducing emissions with the Kyoto agreement. I will work closely with global leaders to create an emissions policy that we can agree to, concurrently encouraging technological development and environmental compliance without the loss of jobs.

My own patriotism proceeds out of a sincere belief that we have no right to leave the next generation less than we inherited. We are stewards of this planet. Stewardship of the land, the air, and water is a core responsibility, and the public good of environmental protection must not be sacrificed to private greed. We should work closely with our international allies to advance a world wide environmental agenda and we should work efficiently at home to build on the enhanced environmental protections that the American people demand.

— Carol Moseley Braun, in a statement submitted to the League of Conservation Voters

Drinking Water Act. She also opposed a proposal prohibiting EPA enforcement of drinking water standards unless taxpayers foot the bill for water system compliance costs and voted against an amendment giving state governments the option of which clean drinking water laws to follow.<sup>2</sup> In addition, she voted to strengthen drinking water standards to prevent outbreaks of harmful microbes.<sup>3</sup>

### ► TOXICS

Responding to growing evidence that the nation's most polluted areas are in poor, minority communities, Senator Moseley Braun supported legislation di-

recting the EPA to identify the 100 U.S. counties with the highest levels of toxic pollution. The Environmental Justice Act would have provided grants of up to \$50,000 for community groups fighting pollution in those areas.<sup>4</sup> "No mother likes to see her child come home dirty from rolling in the neighborhood field," Moseley Braun said. "But in too many minority communities around this nation, mothers have to wonder whether that dirt is deadly. And no mother should have to do that."<sup>5</sup>

Moseley Braun led an effort in the Senate to encourage the cleanup of contaminated brownfield sites throughout the country. She introduced legislation to allow businesses that acquire and redevelop pol-

luted, abandoned areas to deduct the environmental cleanup costs.<sup>6</sup> She said that the bill would “help bring thousands of environmentally contaminated sites back into productive use again.”<sup>7</sup>

Moseley Braun also supported the public’s right to know about toxic chemicals in their communities and the expansion of the list of reported chemicals, the Toxics Release Inventory, by co-sponsoring a bill to expand reporting about toxic chemical use and releases.<sup>8</sup> She also co-sponsored a bill to reduce levels of lead in the environment.<sup>9</sup>

### Superfund

As senator, Moseley Braun voted in favor of boosting funding for the Superfund program.<sup>10</sup>

## ► PUBLIC LANDS

Senator Moseley Braun has a good record on protecting public lands. She opposed oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and co-sponsored legislation to designate the refuge as wilderness.<sup>11</sup> She also co-sponsored legislation to designate federal lands in Utah as wilderness.<sup>12</sup> Moseley Braun voted against attempts to sell off public lands in order to reduce the federal budget deficit.<sup>13</sup> She also voted against a 1997 attempt to use an old mining statute to allow right-of-way claims and road building in wilderness areas; the Bush administration has recently revived the use of this mining statute, putting thousands of acres of public land at risk of development.<sup>14</sup>

### National Forests

During her term as Senator, Moseley Braun favored strengthening the restrictions on clear-cutting timber on federal lands. She co-sponsored a bill to ban clear-cutting on federal forest lands, and to protect sensitive areas including roadless areas and ancient forests, from logging and other intrusive activities.<sup>15</sup>

### Mining

In 1993, Moseley Braun co-sponsored legislation to protect public lands from destructive mining practices. The metals mining industry is the nation’s largest polluter, releasing over 3.3 billion pounds of toxics into the air, land, and water in 2000 alone.<sup>16</sup> The bill she co-sponsored would have set aside land deemed unsuitable for mining, funded cleanup of hundreds of thousands of abandoned hardrock mines and charged an eight percent royalty on minerals produced on public land.<sup>17</sup> In 1994, Moseley Braun voted against placing limits on the amount the government could charge in

royalties for mining on public land.<sup>18</sup> She also voted for an amendment that would have ended a tax break that provides a subsidy to hardrock mining companies operating on public lands.<sup>19</sup> In addition she voted for an amendment to allow the Bureau of Land Management to reform its rules for issuing mining permits in order to better protect the environment.<sup>20</sup>

### National Parks

In 1995, Moseley Braun voted to channel up to \$1 billion into rehabilitating, restoring, and maintaining national parks.<sup>21</sup> She also supported the California Desert Protection Act, which designated the Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments as national parks, created an East Mojave National Park, and set aside an additional 3.75 million acres of wilderness area.<sup>22</sup>

## ► ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY REFORM

In 1995, Senator Moseley Braun voted against a so-called “regulatory reform” bill that was one of the cornerstones in the Republican “Contract With America.” S. 343 would have undercut existing environmental safeguards such as the Toxics Release Inventory and made it more difficult to write the regulations that are required for carrying out many health and environmental protection laws.<sup>23</sup>

She also supported increases in environmental spending,<sup>24</sup> speaking in favor of funding for environmental protection on the Senate floor:

[T]ime after time in poll after poll, Americans across the country have supported and continue to support environmental protections. They want strong environmental laws. Americans want an environment that is safe and healthy. And they want their children and grandchildren to be able to do the same. The cuts in the EPA budget now included in this bill will slow cleanup of Superfund sites, limit the power of the EPA to maintain safe drinking water standards, such as contamination by radon, and limit the EPA’s ability to enforce laws that protect the quality of the environment. The EPA cannot sustain cuts of this magnitude and still do the job of protecting the public health. These cuts in the EPA budget are part of environmental rollbacks some in this Congress have proposed, and that the American people simply do not support ... I believe that jeopardizing the environment to achieve short-term budgetary benefits is simply wrong.<sup>25</sup>

Moseley Braun voted in favor of making the EPA a Cabinet-level agency.<sup>26</sup>

## ► ENERGY

### Nuclear Issues

Senator Moseley Braun generally had a poor voting record on nuclear issues, supporting the expansion of subsidies to the nuclear industry to build controversial new reactors<sup>27</sup> and supporting the construction of a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.<sup>28</sup> Yucca Mountain is opposed by environmentalists due to its potential impact on the surrounding community and the danger posed by shipping nuclear waste to this single site. In voting for the bill, Moseley Braun said city and state officials assured her that moving “spent nuclear shipments pose no risk to the general public.”<sup>29</sup>

### Fuel Economy/Energy Efficiency

As a Senator, Moseley Braun voted against an effort to eliminate \$23.5 million in funding for EPA energy efficiency programs.<sup>30</sup> She also supported President Clinton’s energy tax, also known as the “BTU tax,” which raised prices on non-renewable or inefficient energy sources and used the revenues to pay for other environmental measures in the President’s economic stimulus package.<sup>31</sup>

### Oil Drilling

Moseley Braun repeatedly voted to block GOP-led attempts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>32</sup> She also opposed an effort to provide tax breaks to new oil or gas wells or existing leases in the Gulf of Mexico.<sup>33</sup> Moseley Braun opposed an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act providing oil companies royalty payment relief until the drilling site had produced enough income to cover their initial investment. The amendment was designed to promote more oil leasing and drilling in sensitive offshore areas like the Gulf of Mexico and the Alaskan coast.<sup>34</sup>

### Renewable Energy

Moseley Braun has declared strong support for ethanol production, noting that it could remove pressure to drill in parks and wildlife refuges and calling it “the fuel of the future.”<sup>35</sup> She co-sponsored a bill to expand the use of wind and biomass energy and voted for a Clinton administration proposal to tax non-renewable energy sources, which would have encouraged expansion of renewable sources.<sup>36</sup>

## ► GLOBAL WARMING

A critic of the Kyoto climate change treaty, Moseley Braun has declared herself opposed to any climate change treaty that would cause “serious harm” to the U.S. economy or would fail to require greenhouse gas reductions from developing countries.<sup>37</sup> However, at LCV’s environmental forum, held in June 2003, Moseley Braun criticized the Bush administration for pulling out of the Kyoto treaty and indicated her support for the U.S. re-engaging in global climate change discussions.<sup>38</sup>

## ► WILDLIFE

Moseley Braun opposed a measure that would have limited the government’s ability to identify threatened or endangered species and critical habitats.<sup>39</sup> In 1995, she opposed legislation to eliminate funding for listing new types of endangered species and, in 1996, voted against a proposed moratorium on adding new species to the endangered species list.<sup>40</sup> At LCV’s June 2003 presidential forum, Moseley Braun indicated her support for funding and enforcing the Endangered Species Act.<sup>41</sup>

## ► INTERNATIONAL

### Population

In the Senate, Moseley Braun had a solid record of supporting funding for international family planning. For example, in 1998 she voted against a bill that would have forced the Clinton administration to implement the “Mexico City” policy for family planning funds. This policy, since implemented by the Bush administration, denies U.S. funding to international family planning organizations that perform abortions or provide abortion counseling, even if they pay for those activities with their own funds.<sup>42</sup>

### Trade

Carol Moseley Braun’s position on trade and environment issues is not known.

## ► RECORD ON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Senator Moseley Braun co-sponsored legislation to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.<sup>43</sup> Along with Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), she expressed

concern over the potential air pollution that would be caused by adding 100 new slots to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. In a letter to Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.), the two senators noted there “are at least 400,000 people whose daily lives are affected by the noise and air pollution generated by the airport.”<sup>44</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> 104th Congress, H.R. 2099, Senate vote 470 & 469, 27 September 1995 “Damage Report; Environment and the 104th Congress”, *Natural Resources Defense Council*, October 1996.
- <sup>2</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 2019, Senate vote 115, 17 May 1994; 103rd Congress, S. 2019, Senate vote 121, 18 May 1994
- <sup>3</sup> 104th Congress, S. 343, Senate vote 303, 12 July 1995.
- <sup>4</sup> 103rd Congress, S.1161, 24 June 1993; Linda P. Campbell, “Environmental Justice Force Arrives,” *Chicago Tribune*, 25 July 1993
- <sup>5</sup> Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, *103rd Congressional Record*, P. S5166, 29 April 1993.
- <sup>6</sup> 105th Congress, S. 235, 30 January 1997; Michael Gillis, “Daley, Moseley-Braun Tout Tax Bread for ‘Brownfield’ Cleanups,” *Chicago Sun-Times*, 14 May 1996
- <sup>7</sup> Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun Press Release, 30 January 1997; Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun Press Release, 27 June 1996
- <sup>8</sup> 105th Congress, S. 769, 20 May 1997
- <sup>9</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 729, 22 July 1994
- <sup>10</sup> 104th Congress, H.R. 2099, Senate vote 469, 27 September 1995
- <sup>11</sup> 105th Congress, S. 531, 9 April 1997
- <sup>12</sup> 105th Congress, S. 773, 21 May 1997
- <sup>13</sup> 104th Congress, S. Con. Res. 13, Senate vote 183, 24 May 1995
- <sup>14</sup> 105th Congress, S. 672, Senate vote 59, 7 May 1997; Julie Cart, “Bush Opens Way for Counties and States to Claim Wilderness Roads,” *Los Angeles Times*, 21 January 2003
- <sup>15</sup> 105th Congress, S. 977, 30 June 1997
- <sup>16</sup> EPA Toxic Release Inventory 2000; Industry Report
- <sup>17</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 257, 4 May 1993
- <sup>18</sup> 103rd Congress, S. Con. Res. 18, Senate vote 82, 25 March 1993
- <sup>19</sup> 105th Congress, S. 949, Senate vote 131, 26 June 1997
- <sup>20</sup> 105th Congress, S.2237, Senate vote 268, 15 September 1998
- <sup>21</sup> 104th Congress, S. Con. Res. 13, Senate vote 210, 25 May 1995
- <sup>22</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 21, Senate vote 89, 13 April 1994
- <sup>23</sup> 104th Congress, S. 343, Senate vote 315, 20 July 1995; League of Conservation Voters, *1995 National Environmental Scorecard*
- <sup>24</sup> 104th Congress, H.R. 3019, Senate vote 37, 19 March 1996; 104th Congress, S. Con. Res. 57, Senate vote 125, 22 May 1996
- <sup>25</sup> Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, *104th Congressional Record*, P. S2087, 14 March 1996
- <sup>26</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 171, Senate vote 114, 4 May 1993
- <sup>27</sup> 103rd Congress, H.R. 4506, Senate vote 175, 30 June 1994; 104th Congress, H.R. 1905, Senate vote 347, 1 August 1995
- <sup>28</sup> 105th Congress, S. 104, Senate vote 42, 15 April 1997
- <sup>29</sup> Basil Talbott, “Two Illinois Senators Split as Senate OKs Moving Waste to Nev.,” *Chicago Sun-Times*, 16 April 1997
- <sup>30</sup> 103rd Congress, H. Con. Res. 64, Senate vote 95, 1 April 1993
- <sup>31</sup> 103rd Congress, S.Con.Res.18, Senate vote 40, 18 March 1993
- <sup>32</sup> 104th Congress, S. 1357, Senate vote 525, 27 October 1995; 104th Congress, H.R. 2491, Senate vote 556, 27 October 1995; 104th Congress, H.R. 2491 Senate vote 584, 17 November 1995
- <sup>33</sup> 104th Congress, S. 1357, Senate vote 553, 27 October 1995
- <sup>34</sup> 103rd Congress, S. 2019, Senate vote 120, 18 May 1994
- <sup>35</sup> Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, *105th Congressional Record*, P. S11891, 6 November 1997
- <sup>36</sup> 105th Congress, S. 1459, 8 November 1997; 103rd Congress, S. Con. Res. 18, Senate vote 40, 18 March 1993
- <sup>37</sup> 105th Congress, S. Res. 98, Senate vote 205, 25 July 1997
- <sup>38</sup> LCV/CLCV Presidential Environmental Forum, Los Angeles, CA, 26 June 2003
- <sup>39</sup> 104th Congress, H.R. 889, Senate vote 107, 16 March 1995
- <sup>40</sup> 104th Congress, H.R. 889, Senate vote 106, 16 March 1995; 104th Congress, H.R. 3019, Senate vote 30, 13 March 1996.
- <sup>41</sup> LCV/CLCV Presidential Environmental Forum, Los Angeles, CA, 26 June 2003
- <sup>42</sup> 105th Congress, H.R. 1757, Senate vote 105, 28 April 1998; Ron Fournier, “Bush Gets to Work at White House,” *Associated Press*, 22 January 2001
- <sup>43</sup> 103rd Congress S. 1183, 30 June 1993; 105th Congress, S. 659, 31 July 1998
- <sup>44</sup> Sens. Carol Moseley-Braun and Dick Durbin, Press Release, 7/9/98.