
1979-1990  Baggett serves as Director of Government Relations for the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

1981-1990  Baggett is a board member of the Women’s Campaign Fund. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

1988  Baggett serves as National Labor Coordinator for Michael Dukakis’s presidential campaign. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

1990-1991  Baggett is Director of Congressional and Organizational Relations for the Democratic National Committee. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

1991-1993  Baggett is Chief of Staff of the Democratic National Committee. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

1992  

*November*  Governor Bill Clinton (D-AK) defeats President George Bush in the race for the presidency.

Baggett is Director of Political Affairs for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

Baggett addresses a meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairs regarding plans for the inauguration. (*The Washington Post*, 11/22/1992)

1993  

*January*  President Clinton appoints Baggett Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 18)

*June*  Baggett is appointed Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs. She replaces Rahm Emanuel. (*The New York Times*, 06/23/1993)
July

Joe Velasquez is appointed Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs. (*The Washington Post*, 07/12/1993)

September

Regarding the Administration’s relationship with the Congressional Black Caucus, Baggett remarks, “I think you always want to be sure that your base supporters don’t think you’re taking them for granted in this Administration....We may not have done a good job of communicating what we have done in terms of appointments as well as initiatives the Administration has passed, such as the earned income tax credit, the empowerment zones. It’s our fault, not theirs.” (*The New York Times*, 09/19/1993)

October

Baggett and staff members of the National Economic Council meet with members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM). The IAM warns the group that there would be labor unrest if negotiations between the IAM and United Airlines to buy out United’s parent, UAL Corp., are unsuccessful. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 11/02/1993)

November

Elections are held in various states and localities. On election night, President Clinton monitors the returns, while Baggett provides him with updates. (*The Washington Times*, 11/04/1993)

Baggett negotiates with flight attendants during their strike against American Airlines. President Clinton also intervenes and the parties finally agree to settle the dispute through arbitration. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 11/23/1993)

December

Baggett takes maternity leave from her job at the White House after the birth of her second daughter. (*The Washington Post*, 12/02/1993, 02/09/1994)

1994

February

Baggett returns to the White House from her maternity leave. (*The Washington Post*, 02/09/1994)

The White House begins efforts to prevent major Democratic losses in the midterm congressional elections by planning presidential trips to promote health care, welfare reform and other programs. Baggett remarks, “California will continue to be our favorite stop....I think you’ll see the President a great deal in the Midwest—Illinois, Michigan and Ohio—and some of the Northeast, New York and Pennsylvania.” (*The New York Times*, 02/22/1994)

Baggett addresses a meeting of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) which, in October of
1993, had ceased contributing to the Democratic National Committee in retaliation for the Administration’s support of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In her remarks, she states, the “NAFTA battle took a toll at the grass-roots level,” but unions are pragmatic and understand the need to reelect Democrats. (*Houston Chronicle*, 02/23/1994)

March

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that after Baggett returned from maternity leave she found that much of her work was being “handled by male aides who are closer to Clinton.” (*The Wall Street Journal*, 03/25/1994)

April

Baggett attends the Democratic Party’s annual meeting, held in Los Angeles, California. (*Los Angeles Daily News*, 04/16/1994)

May

Baggett delivers a speech about the 1994 congressional midterm elections at the American Federation of Teachers’ spring political conference. (*U.S. Newswire*, 05/06/1994)


September

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta announces a staff restructuring. Baggett is now to report to Harold Ickes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Political Affairs. (*U.S. Newswire*, 09/23/1994)

Regarding the midterm congressional elections, Baggett tells reporters that “despite some projections to the contrary...I think we will only sustain average midterm losses.” (*The Washington Post*, 09/25/1994)

November

In the final week before the congressional elections, President Clinton travels around the country campaigning for Democratic candidates. Regarding his campaigning, Baggett states, “The President’s role in the final week is to travel around the country and help define the choice between Republicans and Democrats.” (*The New York Times*, 11/03/1994)

Baggett notifies President Clinton that she is leaving at the end of the year to become President of the International Masonry Institute. (*The Washington Post*, 11/30/1994)
Joining the Clinton Administration

- How did you meet Governor Clinton? Describe your initial impressions of him.
- Discuss your perceptions of Democratic Party politics during your time in Washington before the 1992 election. How did labor view Clinton and his efforts to re-invent the Party through the Democratic Leadership Council?
- Describe Ron Brown’s role, and Paul Tully’s role, in building the Democratic Party up through 1992, as well as the roles they played in helping Clinton secure victory that year.
- Did you have a role in the 1992 presidential campaign? What was your role in the transition?
- Describe how you came to be selected as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs. Did you have any discussions with President Clinton or others about your responsibilities before you accepted the post?

Office of Political Affairs

- Characterize your role and responsibilities as Deputy Director of Political Affairs. What duties occupied most of your time?
- How was the Office of Political Affairs organized under Rahm Emanuel? How were the responsibilities divided among Emanuel, his deputies, and the rest of the staff? Describe your working relationship with Emanuel.
- Discuss how you came to be appointed Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs. How did your responsibilities change from your position as a deputy?
- Characterize your working relationship with President Clinton. How frequently did you meet with him? Describe the content of your interaction with him. On what issues did he most seek your consultation? Discuss any important advice you gave him.
- With whom on the White House staff did you work most closely? Describe your working relationships with Chiefs of Staff Thomas “Mack” McLarty and Leon Panetta and Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes. How closely did you work with members of the Offices of Intergovernmental Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Scheduling, Communications, and other White House offices?
- What were the major policy areas that you dealt with during your tenure in the Office of Political Affairs? Did you have a role in health care reform or in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)? What was your role in the American Airlines strike? What other issues and events occupied your time?
- Describe any involvement you had in the 1993 state and local elections and in the 1994 congressional midterm elections.
- Did you work closely with outside political consultants, such as Stanley Greenberg, Paul Begala, Mandy Grunwald, and James Carville? Did your areas of responsibility ever overlap?
- Describe your working relationship with the Democratic Party. How closely did you work with the national, state, and local branches of the Party?
• Did you work with members of Congress? If so, with whom did you work and on what issues?
• How much of your time was spent on public outreach and working with organized interest groups?

The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect
• What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as Director of Political Affairs? What were the most challenging aspects of your job? What were your greatest disappointments?
• Were there any special challenges associated with being a woman in a high-ranking position in this White House?
• What were Clinton’s greatest assets as President? Assess his strengths and weaknesses as a policymaker, a legislative leader, and a party leader. Which of his attributes served him best in the presidency?
• What is the legacy of the Clinton presidency for the Democratic Party?
• What features of the Clinton presidency, and your roles in it, were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
• How should the Clinton presidency be viewed in history?


BIографIчальная информация

- Joan N. Baggett, Official Biography


TIMELINES

• Joan N. Baggett News Timeline, prepared by Jill Abraham, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/20/2004.

• Timeline of the Clinton Presidency, prepared by Robbie Robinson, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/30/2002.

OFFICE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS


• “Repton Native Directs Inauguration, Joins Clinton Staff,” The Associated Press Political Service, 01/17/1993.


