

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Avis LaVelle

PERSON

**LaVelle, Avis, 1954-**

**Alternative Names:** Avis LaVelle;

**Life Dates:** March 5, 1954-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, Illinois

**Work:** Chicago, Illinois

**Occupations:** Public Relations Executive

## Biographical Note

Avis LaVelle was born in Chicago, Illinois, on March 5, 1954. After graduating from Englewood High School, LaVelle attended the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, where she first started out majoring in physical education, but later changed her major to broadcasting. LaVelle later earned her master's degree in business administration from the Keller School of Management at DeVry University.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, LaVelle worked at a radio station in Springfield, Illinois. Moving to Chicago, LaVelle continued her climb in the communications world, and by the early 1990s, she was serving as press secretary to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. In 1992, LaVelle was picked by Bill Clinton to serve as his National Press Secretary during his campaign for president. Returning to Chicago after Clinton's presidency, LaVelle held a number of positions both in the government and the private sector. LaVelle served as the vice president of government and public affairs for the University of Chicago Hospitals; senior policy advisor for Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich; and vice president of communications for Waste Management.

In 1997, LaVelle was appointed by Mayor Daley to the School Reform Board of Trustees, and in 1999, she served as his campaign manager while he successfully ran for reelection. LaVelle retired from the School Reform Board in 2003, and went on to serve on the board of the Chicago Cable Commission, and as a private consultant with her company, A. LaVelle Consulting Services LLC. In 2004 LaVelle was hired by the John Kerry-John Edwards 2004 presidential ticket to serve as Illinois campaign manager.

## Related Entries

**Bass Elem School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Kershaw Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**George Gershwin School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Juliette G. Lowe Upper Grade Center** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Englewood High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**State of Illinois** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1989 to 1996]

**Senior Policy Advisor**

**WTAX Radio Station** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1978 to ?]

**Radio Disc Jockey**

**WGN AM Radio** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1983 to ?]

**Reporter**

**City of Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1989 to 1992]

**Press Secretary**

**Bill Clinton Presidential Campaign** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to 1993]

**National Press Secretary**

**Bill Clinton Administration** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to 1993]

**Executive Assistant in Transition Committee**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1993 to 1995]

**Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs**

**Waste Management** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1995 to 1997]

**Vice President of Communications**

**University of Chicago Hospitals** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to ?]

**Vice President of Government and Public Affairs**

**Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1997 to 2003]

**Richard Daley Mayoral Campaign** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1999 to ?]

**Campaign Manager**

**Foster Group, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1999 to 2004]

**Government Relations**

**Chicago Cable Commission** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2003 to ?]

**A. Lavelle Consulting Services LLC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2003 to ?]

**Founder**

**John Kerry Presidential Campaign** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2004 to ?]

**Illinois Campaign Manager**

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]