

**League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
records, 1867-1988 (bulk: 1959-1977)
2095**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

2nd edition

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
2010.07.12
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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	5
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	6
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	7
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Creator	League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.
Title	League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1959-1987
Date [inclusive]	1867-1991
Extent	135.0 Linear feet ; 345 boxes
Location note	Boxes 1-181, 183-186: 20th century room, shelves 268a-272g Boxes 187-345: 20th century room, shelves 237a-240e NOTE: there is currently no new Box 182. The inventory goes in order from Box 181 to 183.
Language	English
Abstract	The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania was established in 1920 as a successor organization to the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association, with the purpose of providing "education to increase the effectiveness of women voters and to further better government." The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania records document the history of this organization from 1867 to 1980, but the bulk of the material dates from 1959 to 1977. The majority of the materials consists of minutes, newsletters, reports and memorabilia. There is a small amount of early material, particularly relating to the suffrage movement. Of particular interest may be the photographs of the 1915 Women's Liberty Bell Tour in support of the vote.

Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania records, (Collection 2095),
[Box/folder number], The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Biographical/Historical note

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania was established in 1920 as a successor organization to the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association, with the purpose of providing "education to increase the effectiveness of women voters and to further better government."

At the time of its creation, the League of Women Voters was intended to be a temporary organization with the goal of "teaching all the new enfranchised women about the mechanics of registering and voting, nomination and election procedures ... [and developing] certain 'needed legislation,'" (LWVP). Since then, the League has "evolved from an organization concerned with women's needs and with training women voters to one concerned with the nation's needs and with training all citizens" (LWVP).

In biennial conventions, the Pennsylvania League establishes its "Program," the issues selected for study, decision and action. State programs have been concerned with constitutional reform, legislative apportionment, election laws, education, welfare, the environment, and city and town planning.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania has been active in the Education Fund, a non-profit trust established in 1970 for educating the public on government; Time for Action, a program to involve local leagues in state legislative issues; Pennsylvanian Assess Coal Today, a study on potential uses and environmental impact of coal on the state; local government and community projects; environmental projects; and other state and national issues.

Bibliography:

"About the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA)," League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania website, <http://www.palwv.org/About-Us/About-LWVPA.asp>

Scope and Contents note

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania records document the history of this organization from 1867 to 1980, but the bulk of the material dates from 1959 to 1977. There is a small amount of earlier material, particularly relating to the suffrage movement. Of particular interest may be the photographs of the 1915 Women's Liberty Bell Tour in support of the vote.

Researchers will find state board and agenda minutes, 1920 to 1973; state and local annual reports, 1957 to 1973; miscellaneous organizational material and correspondence, 1957 to 1973; treasurer's reports and other financial records, 1933 to 1977; local league reports, 1923 to 1977; mailings, 1959 to 1974; state league convention minutes and reports, 1939 to 1977; political material, 1920 to 1976, particularly regarding to the reform of the state constitution; educational materials; local government and community

projects, 1957 to 1978; environmental projects, 1958 to 1978; national issues, 1946 to 1971; state issues, 1934 to 1976; and scrapbooks, 1951 to 1969.

In using the records, a researcher should be aware that information on a particular subject may be found in several different locations.

This collection is arranged to the box level.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania 2010.07.12

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Historical Society of Pennsylvania with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, 1980 and 1990.

Processing Information note

The first edition of this electronic guide was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project. Finding aid entered into the Archivists' Toolkit by Garrett Boos.

The second edition of this was created when the collection was rehoused in 2016.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Historical Society of Pennsylvania: League of Women Voters of Philadelphia, 1920-1984, Collection 1940.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. Education Fund.
- League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence.
- Financial records.
- Minutes.
- Photographs.
- Project files.
- Publications.
- Reports.
- Scrapbooks.

Subject(s)

- Elections.
- Pennsylvania--Politics and government.
- United States--Politics and government.
- Women in politics.
- Women--Suffrage.

Collection Inventory

	Box
State board minutes and state agenda minutes 1920-1973	1-3
Annual state reports (1952-1976) and annual local league reports, A-P (1959-1965) 1952-1976	4-7
Annual local league reports A-N (N-Z is missing) 1965-1967	8-10
Annual local league reports 1968-1972	11-13
Annual local league reports A-M 1972-1975	14-17
Annual local league reports, 1975 N-S; 1976 A-L 1975-1976	18-22
Correspondence (1974-1975), consultants' reports (1963-1970), by-laws and constitution (1977), blueprints for regionals (1970-1974), testimony and news releases (1971-1974 and 1977-1979) 1963-1978	23-25
Daily Record (1969-1978), state budget (1933-1961), auditor's reports (1941), treasurer's reports (1954-1975) and taxes (1951-1957) 1933-1978	26-28
Finance and budget (1963-1977) and vouchers (1968) 1963-1977	29-31
Vouchers, income and expenditures 1971-1973	32-34
Receipts, disbursements and income 1973-1974	35-38
Purchase orders, receipts and bank statements 1974-1976	39-41
Local League Reports: Abington-Altoona 1923-1975	42-45
Local League Reports: Beaver-Bethlehem 1948-1972	46-49
Local League Reports: Bloomsbury-Chester County 1937-1969	50-53
Local League Reports: Chester-Easton 1921-1969	54-56

Local League Reports: Erie-Hatboro 1943-1975	57-59
Local League Reports: Hatboro-Johnstown 1945-1977	60-64
Local League Reports: Lancaster-Lower Merion 1944-1975	65-67
Local League Reports: Lower Merion-Media 1937-1974	68-71
Local League Reports: Monroeville-Nether Providence 1943-1974	72-75
Local League Reports: New Castle-North Penn undated	75-78
Local League Reports: Newtown-Middletown--Pittsburgh 1948-1973	78-82
Local League Reports: Pittsburgh-Scranton 1945-1979	82-85
Local League Reports: Scranton-State College 1946-1972	85-88
Local League Reports: State College-Swarthmore 1946-1968	89-92
Local League Reports: Thornbury-Upper Providence 1946-1975	93-95
Local League Reports: Upper St. Clair-Whitemarsh 1946-1977	95-99
Local League Reports: Whitemarsh-York 1946-1977	99-102
Mailings 1959-1963 May	102-105
Mailings 1963 May-1967	106-109
Mailings 1967 June-1969 August	109-111
Mailings 1969 September-1972 March	112-114
Mailings 1972 March-1974 October	115-118
Council/Convention 1939-1974	118-121
National Convention (5 cassettes and 9 open-reel tapes) 1966	122
Photographs, largely of conventions (1959-1980 and undated) and reproductions of Women's Liberty Bell Tour (1915); also includes a photograph of Carrie Chapman Catts (1923),	123

2 photographs of Clean Streams (1970) and a photograph of calling for a constitutional convention (1963) 1915-1980, undated	
Glass plate negatives of 1915 Liberty Bell tour (positives are in Box 31) 1915	124-126
Council/convention (1975) and election material, including voter service, published election material and election laws (1920-1976) 1920-1976	121, 127-130
Election material: Constitutional convention revision (1953-1969) and review of study (1953-1966) 1953-1969	130-133
Election material: review of study (1953-1966 and 1971), journals (1967-1968), League of Women Voters information (1967-1968), Convention reporter (1967-1968), Bucknell University summer workshop (1958), State Constitution workshop (1960), inventory of work on constitutional revision (1960), evaluation reports of Constitutional Convention Campaign (1960s), Constitutional Action fund (1965), and Constitutional Convention candidates-questionnaires (1967-1968) 1953-1971	133-135
Election material: comparison of proposed new constitutional provisions with Pennsylvania's present constitution (1965), miscellaneous folder on constitutional convention (1968), constitutional campaign-merit selection of judges (1969), Pennsylvania Plan (1949-1955), Philadelphia home rule (1949-1953), and constitutional convention publications (1949-1968) 1949-1969	136-139
Election material: non-election material (1959-1974), absentee voting, election night reporting (1959-1968), election of 1976 and municipal election of 1979; Education material: committee minutes, correspondence and Education Fund (1942-1947) 1942-1979	139-142
Education material: Education Fund grant, budgets, tax returns, treasurer's reports, expenditures, disbursements, checks, and income 1969-1972	142-145
Education material: Education Fund material 1972-1976	145-148
Times for Action (TFA) 1969-1976	148-151
Local government reports and correspondence 1969-1978	152-153
Local government and community projects, including local politics, education, housing, finance, taxes, real estate, and work projects Allegheny-Radnor 1957-1975	154-156

Local government and community projects: Springfield-Zelienople statewide education projects and studies, including Project 18 environmental projects and reports: environmental quality and water resources 1966-1978	157-160
Environmental projects and reports: Delaware River/Basin Area 1958-1975	160-163
PACT	163-165
PACT	166-169
Environmental projects and reports: Ohio River, Potomac River, strip mining and Tocks Island Dam (1957-1971); health projects; and national-political involvement (1946-1971) 1946-1971	169-172
National-political involvement, state-level involvement (1934-1976), State Publications Catalogs (1970-1976), <i>Britannica</i> and <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> subscription material (1974), and League of Women Voters publications including <i>Action</i> (1944-1950) and <i>The Bulletin</i> of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters (1923-1925) 1923-1976	172-175
League of Women Voters publications including <i>Issue</i> (1945), <i>Legislative Letter</i> (1959-1968), <i>The Pennsylvania Voter</i> (1923-1976), and <i>Trends</i> (1946); suffrage movement material (1867-1924); and Legislative Center (1969-1971) 1867-1976	175-178
50th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters material: <i>Fifty Years Old and proud of It</i> , budget brochure, board kit, anniversary celebration newsletter, and resolution marking fiftieth anniversary (1969); and glass plates of suffrage movement moment - Women's Liberty Bell Tour (1915) 1915, 1969	178
Oversized: scrapbooks 1951, 1952-1956, 1960	179
Oversized: scrapbooks (1967 volume regarding the Constitutional Campaign) 1952-1956, 1955-1956, 1956-1965, 1965, 1967	180
Oversized: scrapbooks (1969 volume includes four 1928 editions of <i>The Woman's Journal</i> published by the Woman Citizen Corporation) 1954-1956, 1961-1963, 1964, 1969	181
Scrapbooks 1963, 1964-1965	183-184
Oversized: financial material: ledger records 1948-1972	185

Oversized: election posters 1960, undated	186
Consumer protection files 1975-1979	187-188
Receipts and disbursements 1977 January-1978 February	188-191
Receipts and disbursements 1978 March-October	191-194
Receipts and disbursements 1978 November-1979 July	194-197
Receipts and disbursements 1980 August-March	197-199
Receipts and disbursements 1980 April-October	199-201
Receipts and disbursements 1980 November-1981 March	201-203
Receipts and disbursements 1981 April-1982 March	203-206
Receipts and disbursements 1982 April-1983 March	206-208
Receipts and disbursements 1983 April-1984 March	208-211
Financial records - including ledgers, journals, sales tax and income tax 1977-1982	211-213, 214
Local League files: Abington-Cheltenham-Jenkintown-Beaver 1975-1986	213, 215-216
Local League files: Berks-Bethlehem 1975-1986	216-220
Local League files: Blair - Central Chester County 1975-1986	220-223
Local League files: Clarion - Erie 1975-1986	223-226
Local League files: Greater Hazelton - Haverford 1975-1986	226-228
Local League files: Hershey - Indiana- Lancaster - New Hope 1975-1986	228-231
Local League files: Lebanon - Media 1975-1986	231-234
Local League files: Monroe - Newtown-Middletown 1975-1986	235-237
Local League files: North Hills - Northeaster Montgomery County 1975-1986	237-240
Local League files: Philadelphia - Radnor 1975-1986	240-243

Local League files: Shenango Valley - State College 1975-1986	243-247
Local League files: Swarthmore - Upper Main Line 1975-1986	247-249
Local League files: Upper St. Clair - Warren 1975-1986	249-252
Local League files: Washington County - Yardley 1975-1986	252-255
Inter-League Organization and County Council files - Allegheny County ILO - SEPR 1975-1986	255-258
Local League annual reports 1975-1979	259-261
Local League annual reports 1980-1982	262-265
Local League files- Abington-Cheltenham-Jenkintown - Lycoming: Post Annual meeting (1986) and Post Annual meeting (1988) 1986, 1988	266-269
Local League, Inter-league Organization and County Council files Meadville - Southeastern PA Region: Post Annual meeting (1986) and Post Annual meeting (1988) 1986, 1988	270-273
Local League voters' guides 1978-1979	274-276
Voters Service files: Debates (1980-1982), Forecast VS/VG (March 1977 to the Primary in 1981) and ABC Election Night reporting (1969-1978) 1969-1982	277-279
ARCO Education Project - car maintenance and repair 1980	280-281
Special project files: "Coal - The Burning Question," background on publication, Pennsylvanians Assess Coal Today (PACT) (1977-1980), Coastal Zone Management (CZM) (1980-1981), Displaced Homemakers (1983), election publications (1985), Environmental Mediation Conference (1985-1986), Flood Plain Conference (1974), Hazardous Waste project (1985), Inspection & Maintenance Program (I & M), vehicular emission (1979), Juvenile Justice projects (1979, 1983-1984); Laws for Kids (1982), low-level radioactive waste (1984), Nuclear Energy project (1981), Primary project (1973), Project VOTE (1984), solid waste management (1985), Tax Assessment Workshop (1983-1984), trade (1983), and waste reduction 1973-1986	282-284
Special project files: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRCP) - Transportation and Air Quality, Hazardous Waste Management workshops, and Sex Equity/	285-288

Vocational Education; Program files: Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) (1976-1981), human resources (1965-1981), legislative action (1974-1979), low level radioactive waste publication information and distribution (1984), debates for League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and League of Women Voters of the United States (1980-1982), and Women's Legislative Exchange (1977-1981) 1965-1984	289-292
Program files: air quality, Hazardous Waste Workshop, health care, human resources testimony letter, international relations/national security, Lake Erie Basin, land use/ILC, libraries, PA Legislature, the Political Accountability Rating System (PARS), reproductive issues, taxes, transportation, the urban crisis, and women's issues 1977-1983	
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Council and Convention Files 1973-1984	293-296
Program files: 18 year old vote, COAL - Pennsylvanians Assess Coal Today (PACT), constitution, Constitutional Convention, General Assembly bills and agendas, legislation, and the Liberty Amendment undated	297-299
Local Leagues' miscellaneous files: Cherry forms (1987); MTS annual reports (1987); treasurer's reports, budget (1984-1986); bylaws amendments (1979 and 1983-1987); local program (1983-1985 and 1987); Allegheny County; a case study; Disaffiliated County Council; and Local League annual reports (1983) 1979-1987	300-302
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania mail books (1979 August-1982 December), League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Board Meeting minutes (1973 September-1982 November), and League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania yearly budget books (fiscal year 1968-1969-fiscal year 1985-1986) 1968-1986	303-306
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania mail books 1974 November-1979 July	307-309
Mixed administrative files 1969-1980	310-312
Mixed administrative files circa 1970-circa 1987	313-315
Mixed administrative files circa 1970-circa 1987	316-318
Mixed administrative files circa 1970-1987	319-323
Mixed administrative files circa 1970-circa 1987	324-327
Disbanded leagues files - Bradford area to Marple-Newtown circa 1980s	328-330

Disbanded leagues files - Monroeville to Warminster circa 1980s	331-334
President's files - low level radioactive waste; Chesapeake Bay; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; Nuclear power, Three Mile Island; Environmental quality; Household hazardous waste project 1978-1991	335-337
President's files - Social policy; Public Utilities Commission; Emergency Medical Services; Economic development; Reapportionment; PennVEST; Farmland bond issue; Land use; Property tax reform; LVWPA tax study; Voter service; Polling site accessibility study; Handicapped Voter Week; Project VOTE; Judicial reform/merit selection; education curriculum; education; education update; Selection of women/minorities hearing circa 1970s-1990s	338-340
President's files - Nominating committee; Action letters; Where We Stand; Project proposals; Key to the Keystone State revisions; Budget committee; Agriculture project; District justice study; Fiscal policy revision 1979-1990	341-342
President's files - Debates; resumes; PennChoice; Day care; Family medical leave; Homeless Coalition; Gender-based insurance; Juvenile justice; WIC Coalition; Women's issues; Women's Agenda 1979-1991	343-345