

Finding aid for the League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids collection Collection 474

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503 localhis@grpl.org URL: http://www.grpl.org

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids collection
ID:	Collection 474
Date [inclusive]:	1912-2017
Physical Description:	14 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	In 1921, Miss Grace Van Hoesen, Miss Christine Keck, Dr. Mary Hinsdale, and Mrs. David Warner founded the League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids, Mich. This non- partisan organization aimed to educate men and women on public policies, government, and voting. The league was inspired by the formation of the national league in 1919, and was incorporated in 1949. The work of the league has ranged from women's health, war prevention, education, and child welfare to voter registration, international affairs, and natural resources. The collection spans from 1921 to the early 21st century. The collection includes the league's position papers, publications, informational guides, scrapbooks, studies, and administrative files. This collection is related to collection 104, the Dorothy Leonard Judd Papers. The League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids continues to be active today.

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Biographical / Historical

In the spring of 1921, The League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids, Mich. was founded by Miss Grace Van Hoesen, Miss Christine Keck, Dr. Mary Hinsdale, and Mrs. David Warner. This occurred shortly after the league was created at the national level by Miss Carrie Chapman Catt in 1919, and after the 19th amendment was passed, allowing women to vote. The purpose of the non- partisan league was to educate men and women on public policies, government, voting laws and participation. The league was incorporated in 1949.

In their early years, the League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids attended local club meetings to educate others on voting, including the Federation of Women's Club, the Women's University Club, and the St. Cecilia Society. The league connected with government officials and policymakers to discuss

public issues, and to lobby in favor or in opposition of policies. With the growth of the league, the members organized committees to study issues including but not limited to child welfare, women's health, efficiency in government, industry, education, and natural resources. Later, the league expanded their studies to research laws, social security, national defense, NATO, and international relations, among other topics. After the 26th amendment was passed, the league opened membership to younger voters. In the mid and late 90's, the league has visited schools and businesses and has successfully helped hundreds of eligible citizens register to vote.

The League of Women Voters of Grand Rapids continues to be active today.

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Scope and Contents

The materials in the League of Women Voter's of Grand Rapids collection are organized chronologically and by content, with the exception of the miscellaneous series that is organized by form. The collection is divided into six series: administrative files, studies, publications, newspaper, and miscellaneous. Included in this collection are materials from the national League of Women Voters and the state League of Women Voters. The majority of the collection are studies and publications. These materials may be useful to anyone studying the political involvement of women in Grand Rapids, the emergence and advancement of women's clubs, and the adversities the State of Michigan or the city of Grand Rapids have faced regarding education, taxes, legislation, and youth, among other topics. This collection may also serve anyone interested the collection 104, the Dorothy Leonard Judd papers.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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Collection Inventory

I. Administrative Files, 1921-2009

Date [inclusive]: 1921-2009

Scope and Contents

This series contains two historical reviews: one written in 1946, by Marjorie Wykes, and another written in the early 1990s. This series also contains correspondence ranging from 1929 to 1994, papers from the league's incorporation, annual meeting minutes and board meeting minutes, membership files, and treasury files. The treasury files are materials related to grants or donations, as well as bank deposit slips and statements, and they range form 1956 to 2010. This series also includes directories, guides for committees, and bylaws.

	— .		
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History- Twenty-five years of growing pains by Marjorie Wykes, 1921-1946	Box 1	Folder 1	
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II. Studies, 1937-2009

Date [inclusive]: 1937-2009

Scope and Contents

This series contains papers and studies, which range from 1937 to 2009. The greater part of these studies focus on international relations, education reform and funding, voter service, local government, children's childcare and youth delinquency, housing, taxes, natural resources and waste, and human resources, and health care. Additionally, this series includes papers on elections, the judicial system, and race relations in schools and in housing. There are also materials related to reproduction rights, women's rights, libraries, and people with disabilities.

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Scope and Contents

This series contains books, guides, booklets, papers, and fliers, published by the league in Grand Rapids, or by the league at the national level, and other materials published by the city or state government. Voter Guides, The State Voter, The Grand Rapids Voter, and The Michigan Voter make up a significant portion of this series.

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National Issues Forum- Guide and Study, 1986 Date [inclusive]: 1986	Box 26	Folder 1
Report from the Hill- US League, 1986-1990 Date [inclusive]: 1986-1990	Box 26	Folder 2
Global Issues , 1988 Date [inclusive]: 1988	Box 26	Folder 3
Kent County AIDS Resource Directory, 1989 Date [inclusive]: 1989	Box 26	Folder 4
Earth Care Paper Catalog, 1989 Date [inclusive]: 1989	Box 26	Folder 5
Senior Power, 1990 Date [inclusive]: 1990	Box 26	Folder 6
Understanding Economic Policy, 1990 Date [inclusive]: 1990	Box 26	Folder 7
Impact on Issues: A Leaders Guide to National Program, 1990 Date [inclusive]: 1990	Box 26	Folder 8
Filing Petitions for Public Office, 1990 Date [inclusive]: 1990	Box 26	Folder 9
Citizens Guide to State Government, 1993 Date [inclusive]: 1993	Box 26	Folder 9
Decision Making Via Satellite, 1990-1991 Date [inclusive]: 1990-1991	Box 26	Folder 10
Citizens in Government, 1992	Box 26	Folder 11

MI Ballot Proposal, 1993	Box 26	Folder 12
Date [inclusive]: 1993		
The Fulcrum- Newspaper for People with Disabilities, 1994	Box 26	Folder 13
Date [inclusive]: 1994		
Guide to Media Coverage, 1994	Box 26	Folder 14
Date [inclusive]: 1994		
League of Women Voters in Perspective by Nancy M. Newman, 1994	Box 26	Folder 15
Date [inclusive]: 1994		
Guide to State Government by Debbie Stabenow, 1994	Box 26	Folder 16
Date [inclusive]: 1994		
The State We're In, 1995	Box 26	Folder 17
Date [inclusive]: 1995		
Voter's Self Defense Manual, 1996	Box 26	Folder 17
Date [inclusive]: 1996		
Mr. Justice Brennan, 1996	Box 26	Folder 18
Date [inclusive]: 1996		
Getting Into Issues, 1996	Box 26	Folder 19
Date [inclusive]: 1996		
Transporting Radioactive Spent Fuel, 1996	Box 27	Folder 1
Date [inclusive]: 1996		
The Federalist Idea: 200 years later, 1997	Box 27	Folder 2
Date [inclusive]: 1997		
US Government: Owner's Manual, 1997	Box 27	Folder 3
Date [inclusive]: 1997		
Guide- Drinking Water Protection, 1997	Box 27	Folder 3
Date [inclusive]: 1997		
A Guide to Public Policy Positions, 1997	Box 27	Folder 4
Date [inclusive]: 1997		
Miscellaneous Brochures and Pamphlets, 1940-1989	Box 27	Folder 5
Date [inclusive]: 1940-1989		
Miscellaneous Brochures and Pamphlets, 1990-1995	Box 27	Folder 6
A		

Date [inclusive]: 1990-1995

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IV. Newspaper, 1942-1993

Date [inclusive]: 1942-1993

Scope and Contents

This series contains newspaper clippings from the Grand Rapids Press, the Grand Rapids Herald, and from the Detroit News, among other unidentified news outlets. A large part of the clippings range from 1942 to 2017, however some are unidentified.

Title/Description	Instances	
(n.d.)	Box 28	Folder 1
Date [bulk]: n.d.		
(n.d.)	Box 28	Folder 2
Date [bulk]: n.d.		
1942-1947	Box 28	Folder 3
Date [inclusive]: 1942-1947		
1950-1959	Box 28	Folder 4
Date [inclusive]: 1950-1959		
1960-1965	Box 28	Folder 5
Date [inclusive]: 1960-1965		
1960-1965	Box 28	Folder 6
Date [inclusive]: 1960-1965		
1970-1979	Box 28	Folder 7
Date [inclusive]: 1970-1979		
1970-1979	Box 28	Folder 8
Date [inclusive]: 1970-1979		
1980-1989	Box 28	Folder 9
Date [inclusive]: 1980-1989		
1990-1993	Box 28	Folder 10
Date [inclusive]: 1990-1993		

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V. Miscellaneous, 1946-2017

Date [inclusive]: 1946-2017

Scope and Contents

This series contains two scrapbooks, one focuses solely on the a voter registration drive from 1950 and the other on the 1970s. Additionally, it contains a binder composed by Susan Timmons, an ex-president of the league, photo negatives, photos, slides. There are two award plaques, one from Planned Parenthood and the other from a childcare community. Included in this series are buttons and bookmarks with the league colors and initials, a cassette tape, and five VHS tapes. These materials generally range from the late 1940s to the early 2000s.

Title/Description	Instances		
Scrapbook- November Voter Registration Drive, 1950	Box 29		
Date [inclusive]: 1950			
Scrapbook- LWV Continuities, 1971-1976	Box 30		
Date [inclusive]: 1971-1976			
LWV by Susan Timmons, 1977-1978	Box 31		
Date [inclusive]: 1977-1978			
Photo Negatives, (n.d)	Box 32	Folder 1	
Date [bulk]: n.d			
Photos, 1946-2017	Box 32	Folder 2	
Date [inclusive]: 1946-2017			
Photos, 1990	Box 32	Folder 3	
Date [inclusive]: 1990			
Slides, (n.d.)	Box 32	Folder 4	
Date [bulk]: n.d.			
Maggie Award from Planned Parenthood, 1983	Box 32	Folder 5	
Date [inclusive]: 1983			
Award from Community Coordinated Childcare for Community Involvement, 1990	Box 32	Folder 6	
Date [inclusive]: 1990			
Miscellaneous Notes, (n.d.)	Box 32	Folder 7	
Date [bulk]: n.d.			
LWV Buttons and Bookmarks, (n.d.)	Box 33	Folder 1	
Date [bulk]: n.d.			
LWV Radio Interview on a Cassette Tape, (n.d.)	Box 33	Folder 2	
Date [bulk]: n.d.			
LWV Proposal A Forum- VHS, (n.d.)	Box 33	Folder 3	
Date [bulk]: n.d.			

Date [bulk]: n.d.

You're In the Driver's Seat- VHS, (n.d.) Date [bulk]: n.d.	Box 33	Folder 5	
League of Women Voters Broadcast- VHS, 1990 Date [inclusive]: 1990	Box 33	Folder 6	
Charter Schools Forum at Ford Museum- VHS, 1996 Date [inclusive]: 1996	Box 33	Folder 7	

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