

Collection #
M 1052

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1920-2003**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Maire Gurevitz
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 11 manuscript boxes, 1 half size manuscript box, 3 folders photographs, 5 folders color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1920-2003

PROVENANCE: League of Women Voters of Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: League of Women Voters of Indiana Records (M 0612); League of Women Voters of Indianapolis (M 0611); Woman's Franchise League of Indiana (SC 1761);

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0208; 2006.0402; 2009.0096

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The League of Women Voters was formed from the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1920 after women won the right to vote. The same year, the Indiana League affiliate was organized from the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana. Mrs. Richard Edwards of Peru, Indiana, former president of the Woman's Franchise League, an organization formed in 1911 from the Woman's School League, and newly appointed national League treasurer, was instrumental in promoting the new organization in the state. A.H. Beardsley of Elkhart became the Indiana League's first president.

From its beginning, the League focused on championing woman and child rights by supporting such legislation as the Sheppard-Towner Act (1923) which established funds for education in maternal and child hygiene, the Child Labor Amendment (1924), and the Civil Service Reclassification Act (1923). During World War II, the League dedicated itself to choosing the best senators and representatives at the national elections to promote wise legislation. Its anti-isolationist stand after the War upheld the principle of international cooperation for establishment of world institutions for maintenance of law and order.

The Indiana LWV has been active on several issues. These concerns include the Bricker Amendment, proposed in the early 1950s to limit the Federal government's treaty-making powers; civil rights; conservation; education and school finance; foreign policy; health care; home rule; active government; merit system for employment; reapportionment; status of women; taxation; child welfare; and world trade.

Much of the organization's work is conducted through local leagues. These associations, affiliated with the state and national leagues are at the township, city, or county level. Topics and issues of concern include the national budget, home rule, foreign policy, local government, school reorganization, voter service, the United Nations, and world trade.

Through the years the Indiana League of Women Voters has worked to protect voting rights and has provided information on government operations, public issues, and election procedures and candidates. Its purpose, as outlined in its 1961 bylaws, is to "promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government." Although a nonpartisan organization, the League "may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States." The League remains an active civic organization.

Sources:

Material in the collection

Greenough, Katherine Croan, *History of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1920–1952*. Indianapolis: League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1977.

Pumroy, Eric and Paul Brockman, *A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana*

Historical Society and Indiana State Library. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series 1 (Box 1-3) contains meeting minutes and agendas for board meetings of the League of Women Voters of Indiana. There are also minutes and agendas for meetings of local leagues and for organizations that the League of Women Voters of Indiana affiliated with, such as the Indiana Coalition for Human Services or the Gender Fairness Coalition.

Series 2 (Box 3-5) contains documents relating to State Convention, State Council, and Every Member Workshops that were organized by the League of Women Voters of Indiana. There are planning materials, event packets, and minutes of the business that took place at State Convention.

Series 3 (Box 5-9) contains correspondence, publications, and other resources produced by the League of Women Voters of Indiana. This includes issues of *The Indiana Voter* and *Legislative Link* as well as the State Program and State Board reports. There are also correspondence and resources pertaining to local league work on welfare reform and the judicial system.

Series 4 (Box 9-11) contains correspondence, publications, resources, and a market research study concerning school finance and the tax system in the state of Indiana. The documents speak to the work the League of Women Voters of Indiana did to educate the public about school funding and school reorganization in the state.

Series 5 (Box 11-12) contains organizational histories of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, and information on the process of collecting materials to write a history of the league.

Series 6 and 7 contain black and white and color photographs of League events, such as State Convention and the 75th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Indiana.

Folders in each series are arranged chronologically.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Minutes and Agenda

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1930	Box 1, Folder 1
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1931	Box 1, Folder 2
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1932	Box 1, Folder 3
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1933	Box 1, Folder 4
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1934	Box 1, Folder 5
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1935	Box 1, Folder 6
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1936	Box 1, Folder 7
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1937	Box 1, Folder 8
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1938	Box 1, Folder 9
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1939	Box 1, Folder 10
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1940	Box 1, Folder 11
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1941	Box 1, Folder 12
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1942	Box 1, Folder 13

Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1943	Box 1, Folder 14
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1944	Box 2, Folder 1
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1945	Box 2, Folder 2
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1946	Box 2, Folder 3
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1947	Box 2, Folder 4
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1948	Box 2, Folder 5
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1949	Box 2, Folder 6
Minutes, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1950	Box 2, Folder 7
Local League Agenda, 1961-71	Box 2, Folder 8
Local League Agenda, 1972-87	Box 2, Folder 9
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1979	Box 2, Folder 10
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1980	Box 2, Folder 11
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1981 (1 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 1
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1981 (2 of 2)	Box 3, Folder 2
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1982	Box 3, Folder 3
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1983-86	Box 3, Folder 4
Agenda, Indiana Coalition for Human Services, 1990-98	Box 3, Folder 5
Agenda, Children's Coalition of Indiana, 1992-99	Box 3, Folder 6
Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1993-95	Box 3, Folder 7

Minutes and Agenda, State Board, 1996-2000 Box 3, Folder 8

Agenda, Gender Fairness Coalition of Indiana, 1998-2002 Box 3, Folder 9

Series 2: Convention, Council, and Workshops

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

State Convention Minutes, 1965-69 Box 3, Folder 10

State Convention, Clippings, 1967 Box 3, Folder 11

State Convention, Planning Materials, 1967 Box 3, Folder 12

State Convention Minutes, 1971-79 Box 3, Folder 13

State Convention Packet, 1973 Box 3, Folder 14

State Council Meeting Materials, 1974 Box 3, Folder 15

State Convention Materials, 1975 (1 of 2) Box 4, Folder 1

State Convention Materials, 1975 (2 of 2) Box 4, Folder 2

State Convention Packet, 1977 Box 4, Folder 3

State Council Meeting Materials, 1978 Box 4, Folder 4

State Convention Packet, 1979 Box 4, Folder 5

State Convention Minutes, 1981-89 Box 4, Folder 6

Minutes, State Council Meeting, 1988-98 Box 4, Folder 7

Every Member Workshop Materials, 1991 Box 4, Folder 8

Every Member Workshop Materials, 1992 Box 4, Folder 9

State Council Meeting Planning Materials, 1992 Box 4, Folder 10

Every Member Workshop Materials, 1993 Box 4, Folder 11

Every Member Workshop Materials, 1994 Box 4, Folder 12

State Council Meeting Planning Materials, 1994 Box 4, Folder 13

State Convention Packet and Planning 1995 Box 4, Folder 14

Every Member Workshop Materials, 1995	Box 4, Folder 15
Every Member Workshop Materials, 1996	Box 4, Folder 16
State Council Meeting Planning Materials, 1996	Box 5, Folder 1
Every Member Workshop Materials, 1997	Box 5, Folder 2
State Convention Planning Materials, 1997	Box 5, Folder 3
State Convention Packet, 1997	Box 5, Folder 4
President's Day Planning Materials, 1997-98	Box 5, Folder 5
Every Member Workshop Materials, 1998	Box 5, Folder 6
State Council Meeting Packet, 1998	Box 5, Folder 7
Every Member Workshop Materials, 1999	Box 5, Folder 8
Every Member Workshop Materials, 2002	Box 5, Folder 9
State Convention Packet, 2003	Box 5, Folder 10

Series 3: Correspondence, Reports, and Publications

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Bulletin, 1932-33	Box 5, Folder 11
State Programs, 1938-61	Box 5, Folder 12
State Programs, 1961-85	Box 5, Folder 13
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1963	Box 5, Folder 14
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1964-65	Box 5, Folder 15
Annual Budgets, 1964-82	Box 5, Folder 16
Judicial System Voters Survey, 1966-67	Box 5, Folder 17
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1966-69	Box 5, Folder 18
Judicial System Progress Report, 1968	Box 5, Folder 19
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1971-75	Box 5, Folder 20

The Indiana Voter, 1971-84	Box 6, Folder 1
Miscellaneous Position Papers and Brochures, ca. 1972-2000	Box 6, Folder 2
Legislative Link, 1973	Box 6, Folder 3
State Board Reports, 1973	Box 6, Folder 4
State Board Reports, 1974	Box 6, Folder 5
State Board Reports, 1975	Box 6, Folder 6
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1976	Box 6, Folder 7
State Board Reports, 1976-77	Box 6, Folder 8
Impact on Issues, 1976-82	Box 6, Folder 9
Local League Mailings, Welfare, 1977-79	Box 6, Folder 10
State Board Reports, 1978-80	Box 6, Folder 11
From Study to Action, State Program, 1978-84	Box 6, Folder 12
State Board Reports, 1981-82	Box 6, Folder 13
Impact on Issues, 1982-2002	Box 6, Folder 14
State Board Reports, 1983	Box 7, Folder 1
Local League Pledges, 1984-85	Box 7, Folder 2
State Board Reports, 1984-85	Box 7, Folder 3
From Study to Action, State Program, 1985-91	Box 7, Folder 4
The Indiana Voter, 1985-86	Box 7, Folder 5
Local League Pledges, 1986-87	Box 7, Folder 6
Local League Pledges, 1987-88	Box 7, Folder 7
Local League Pledges, 1988-89	Box 7, Folder 8
Policies, The Indiana Voter, 1988-94	Box 7, Folder 9
From Study to Action, State Program, 1989-95	Box 7, Folder 10

Member-at-Large Mailings, 1989-99	Box 7, Folder 11
Investment Advisory Committee Reports, 1990-94	Box 7, Folder 12
Legislative Link, 1991	Box 7, Folder 13
Correspondence, 1991-95	Box 8, Folder 1
Legislative Link, 1992	Box 8, Folder 2
Local Program Items, 1992-2001	Box 8, Folder 3
Legislative Link, 1993	Box 8, Folder 4
Nomination for LWWUS Board of Directors, 1993	Box 8, Folder 5
Correspondence, League of Women Voters of Hamilton County, 1993-94	Box 8, Folder 6
Legislative Link, 1994-95	Box 8, Folder 7
75 th Anniversary Materials, 1995	Box 8, Folder 8
Biannual Reports, 1995-97	Box 8, Folder 9
Legislative Link, 1996-98	Box 8, Folder 10
From Study to Action, State Program, 1995-99	Box 8, Folder 11
State Board Reports, 1996-97	Box 8, Folder 12
Correspondence, 1996-98	Box 8, Folder 13
State Board Reports to Local League Presidents, 1999	Box 8, Folder 14
Correspondence, 1999-2003	Box 8, Folder 15
State Board Reports to Local League Presidents, 2000-03	Box 9, Folder 1

Series 4: School Finance Project

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Miscellaneous School Finance Materials, n.d.	Box 9, Folder 2
Notes, County Government, n.d.	Box 9, Folder 3

Taxes and Schools, A Study of Their Relationship in Indiana, 1957	Box 9, Folder 4
School Finances Resources, 1957-69	Box 9, Folder 5
Taxes and Schools, School Organization and Reorganization, 1958	Box 9, Folder 6
Taxes and Schools: How Should State School Funds Be Distributed? Kit, 1958-59	Box 9, Folder 7
Correspondence, School Finance, 1959-71	Box 9, Folder 8
Taxes and Schools: A Study of Their Relationship In Indiana, 1960	Box 9, Folder 9
School Survey Guides, 1962-69	Box 9, Folder 10
Clippings, School Finance, 1967-82	Box 9, Folder 11
Indiana State Revenue & Appropriation Packet, 1970	Box 9, Folder 12
School Finance Resources, 1971 (1 of 2)	Box 9, Folder 13
School Finance Resources, 1971 (2 of 2)	Box 9, Folder 14
School Finance Resources, 1972-74	Box 10, Folder 1
Correspondence, School Finance, 1972-76	Box 10, Folder 2
School Finance Legislation, 1975	Box 10, Folder 3
School Finance Resources, 1975-78	Box 10, Folder 4
Correspondence, School Finance, 1977-80	Box 10, Folder 5
School Finance Resources, 1979-83	Box 10, Folder 6
Correspondence, School Finance, 1981 (1 of 2)	Box 10, Folder 7
Correspondence, School Finance, 1981 (2 of 2)	Box 10, Folder 8
Market Opinion Research Study Proposal, 1981	Box 10, Folder 9
School Finance in the 1980s, Conference Packet, 1981	Box 10, Folder 10
School Finance Project Final, 1981	Box 10, Folder 11

School Finance Study Kit, 1981	Box 10, Folder 12
Correspondence, School Finance, 1982 (1 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 1
Correspondence, School Finance, 1982 (2 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 2
Study of Citizen Opinions, Attitudes and Choices for the Funding of Public Education in Indiana, 1982	Box 11, Folder 3
Correspondence, School Finance, 1983-85	Box 11, Folder 4
Education Portfolio, 1987	Box 11, Folder 5
ABC's of School Finance Game, 1989	Box 11, Folder 6

Series 5: Organizational Histories

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Drafts, Indiana League History, n.d. (1 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 7
Drafts, Indiana League History, n.d. (2 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 8
Indiana League History, 1920-40s	Box 11, Folder 9
National League Historical Resources, 1920-56	Box 11, Folder 10
A History of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1920-52	Box 11, Folder 11
Clippings, 1926-71	Box 12, Folder 1
Skits and Plays, 1940-51	Box 12, Folder 2
History of the Indiana League of Women Voters During World War II, 1946	Box 12, Folder 3
Calendars, 1949-82	Box 12, Folder 4
Indiana League History 1950-60s	Box 12, Folder 5
Correspondence, Writing a League History, 1968-95	Box 12, Folder 6

Series 6: Black and White Photographs

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Social Justice Day at Marion, Ohio, ca. 1920	Photographs, Folder 1

State Convention, 1967

Photographs, Folder 2

National Convention, 1974

Photographs, Folder 3

Series 7: Color Photographs

CONTENTS

State Convention, 1967

State Convention, 1989 (1 of 2)

State Convention, 1989 (2 of 2)

75th Anniversary Celebration, 1975

President's Day, 1998

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1052).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.