

*South Carolina Political Collections*

*University of South Carolina*

## **League of Women Voters of Columbia/Richland County**

**Papers, 1942-2015**

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## **Organization History:**

The League of Women Voters of Columbia/Richland County was organized as a provisional league in 1947, and recognized as a local league in 1950, one year after the recognition of the Charleston and Spartanburg leagues. These three local organizations formed the nucleus of the state League. The League is a non-partisan organization that encourages citizens to learn about and become active in national, state, and local government.

## **Presidents, League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 1947-48 | Susy Allison                 |
| 1948-49 | May Bond Rhodes              |
| 1949-50 | Roberta Starling             |
| 1950-53 | Dot Yaghjian                 |
| 1953-55 | Mary Bryan                   |
| 1955-57 | Gedell Young                 |
| 1957-58 | Betty Belser                 |
| 1958-61 | Sarah Leverette              |
| 1961-63 | Dena Bank                    |
| 1963-65 | Keller Bumgardner            |
| 1965-67 | Barbara Moxon                |
| 1967-68 | Carol Bernstein              |
| 1968-69 | Edie Jensen                  |
| 1969-73 | Ellen Cooper                 |
| 1973-76 | Candy Waites                 |
| 1976-79 | Judith Thompson              |
| 1979-83 | Sandra Watts                 |
| 1983-87 | Elizabeth Oakman             |
| 1987-92 | Laurel Suggs                 |
| 1992-97 | Sandra Burr                  |
| 1997-99 | Jo Conner                    |
| 1999-05 | Cynthia Flynn                |
| 2005-07 | Lilla Hoefer                 |
| 2007-09 | Pam Craig and Suzanne Rhodes |
| 2009-11 | Pam Craig                    |
| 2011-13 | Rita Paul                    |
| 2015-17 | Julie Sellers                |
| 2017-19 | Janelle Rivers               |

## **Scope and Content Note:**

The records of the League of Women Voters of Columbia/Richland County, 1942 to 2015, are divided into three main series: **Administrative**, **Program**, and **Clippings** files.

**Administrative Files**, 1947-2010, include general papers; organizational bylaws; records of board and other meetings and conventions; financial records, including records of annual fund-raising

drives and treasurer's reports; membership records; program development; public relations; and a variety of publications.

**Program Files**, 1942-2009, contain correspondence, reference, and other material on diverse local, state, and national program items. Among these items are city-county consolidation and local development, chiefly relating to the Congaree Vista, the "River City" project, and Riverbanks Zoo.

In the 1950s and 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, loyalty-security was a serious issue, and the League was involved in the Freedom Agenda Program, discussions about the proposed Bricker Amendment of 1953, and other issues related to national security and individual liberty.

There is a wealth of material from the League and ERA South Carolina concerning the drive to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Sandra Watts, a League member, also served with ERA South Carolina.

Natural Resources includes air and water quality, energy, land use, and hazardous waste concerns.

State government files regard constitutional revision and reapportionment as well as miscellaneous legislative issues.

Voter Service material documents a variety of League interests and activities such as candidate forums, candidate questionnaires, election laws and procedures, voting rights, and voter registration. Also documented under Voter Service is a program of League observers who sat in on meetings of the Columbia City Council and Richland and Lexington County Councils as well as meetings of other groups.

Other Program items include education, health care and Richland Memorial Hospital, and housing.

***Note: This collection receives periodic additions.***

***Related records:***    *League of Women Voters of South Carolina*  
                              *(SCPC)            League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County*

***League newsletters are available in the Books Division, South Caroliniana Library.***

## Collection Inventory:

### Administrative Files:

**Box 1**

#### General:

1950-1960

1961-1966

1967-1968

1969-1971

1972-1976

1977-1980

1981-1983

1984-1994

1995-2003

2004-2006

No date (2 folders)

Advisory Committee, 1964-1971 and no date

Anniversary and Birthday Celebrations for the League

#### Annual Report:

1954-1973

1974-1977

1978-1981

1982-1988, 1995-1997, 2005-2006

#### Board [*see also*: Meetings]:

##### General:

1970-1982

1983-1991

2006-2009 and no date

Policy [Local and State], 1962-1987 and no date

#### Bylaws

#### Calendar

1973-1997

2001-2004

2009 and no date

#### Correspondence:

##### General:

1949-1960

1961-1966

1967-1968

1969-1973

1974-1977

1978-1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988-1992

1993-1994 and no date

1995-1999 and no date

2001-2009, 2013-2014 and no date

#### LWVSC

#### President's

Events, Girl Scouts Page Program, 2014

**Box 2**

Finance:

General:

1953-1969  
1970-1973  
1974-1976  
1977-1989, 1991-2007, and no date

Audits:

1953-1969  
1971-1981

Budget:

1950-1969  
1970-1995  
1996-2007 and no date

Drives:

General:

1947-1965  
1966-1969

1970-1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975-1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984-1992 and no date

Bed and Breakfast Project

Contributor Lists, 1972-1993

Fiftieth Anniversary, 1967-1969, 1998

"Finance Fling," 1979-1983

Recycled Relics Sale, 1979-1987, 1995

Theatre Gala:

*Strange Bedfellows*, 1980  
*Same Time Next Year*, 1981  
*Cyrano de Bergerac*, 1982  
*1940s Radio Hour*, 1983  
*Sweeney Todd*, 1984  
*Cabaret*, 1985  
*Spoon River Anthology*, 1986  
*Biloxi Blues*, 1987  
*Animal Farm*, 1988  
*Tartuffe*, 1989  
*Casablanca*, 1992  
Miscellaneous, 1990 and no date

Ledgers [bound]:

1969-1978  
1979-1983  
1974, Feb.-1977, Oct.

Men's Advisory Committee, 1968-1969

Money Management Workshop, 1977

Treasurer's Report:

Annual, 1948-1992, 2004-2005 and no date

Monthly:

**Box 3**

1950-1968  
1969-1972  
1973-1983  
1984-1989  
1990-1993, 2003-2004

Quarterly:

1969  
1977-1989

League History, Columbia  
Long-Range Plan, 1984-1990  
Meetings:

**Box 4**

General:

1948-1954  
1955-1959  
1960-1975, 1987, 1997, 2003, 2006-2007, and no date

Annual:

1950-1969  
1970-1979  
1980-1989  
1990-1992

Board:

Agendas, 2013-2016

Briefings:

1967-1968  
1969  
1970-1971  
1972-1973  
1974-1975  
1976-1977  
1978-1979  
1980-1981  
1982, 2006-2010, and no date

Minutes:

1948-1951  
1952-1954  
1955-1956  
1957-1958  
1959-1960  
1961-1962  
1963-1964  
1967  
1968-1969

1970-1971  
1972-1973  
1974-1975  
1976-1977  
1978-1979  
1980-1982

**Box 5**

Mixed [these folders contain briefings and minutes]:

1983-1984  
1985-1986  
1987-1989  
1990-1993, Mar.  
1993, Apr. (cont'd)-1994  
1995-1998  
1999-2002

2003-2005  
2006-2010  
Legislative Luncheon [later: Public Policy Luncheon]:  
1961-1969  
1981-1988  
1989-1994  
2013-2015, c. 2013-2015  
National Convention, 2014-2016  
Southeast Regional Conference for Joint Action on Urban Problems, Atlanta, Nov. 1969  
State Board:  
1965-1978  
1985-1989  
1990-1992  
State Convention:  
1969  
1971  
1989  
2015  
State Council, 1984, 1992, 2014, 2016  
Membership [*see also*: Publications]:  
General:  
1967-1982  
1985-2010 and no date  
Directory and Handbook:  
1963-1977  
1978-2004, 2006, 2009-2017  
  
Lists:  
1948-1974  
1977-1993 and no date  
1994-2009 and no date  
2013-2016  
Member Information Cards, 1947-c. 1978 [separate small box of 3x5 cards]  
Member Socials (Women's Equality Day/Summer Member and Guest Social, 2013-2014)  
Membership and Leadership Development:  
General, 2012-2015 and no date  
LEAD Day, 2013  
Yearbooks:  
1949-1974  
  
Nominating Committee, 1975-1989, 2006 and no date  
Office Files, 1969-1991  
Outreach Committee, Columbia Chamber of Commerce Membership, 2014  
President's Folder 1990-1991 (3 folders)  
Program Development:  
1963-1977  
1978-1986  
1987-1993  
2012-2016  
Public Relations:  
General:  
1970-1977  
1978-1991, 2007, and no date  
Flyers and Pamphlets, 2014 and no date  
Press Releases:  
1970-1979  
1980-1983  
1984-1991 and no date

**Box 6**

Website

**Publications:**

**Box 6a**

"Advocacy 101", c. 2012-2015  
 "Citizen Update," 1978-1984  
 "Directory of Elected Officials" [a/k/a "Directory of Public Officials"], 1976-2016  
 "Facts," 1968, 1983-1991  
 Issues, General  
 "Know Your County" [Richland, 1953, 1965, 1994 (disk and photos); Lexington, 1971]  
 Lists, 1968, 1992, and no date  
 "League Lines" [Newsletter]:  
     1968, 1992-1999  
     2000-2004  
     2005-2012  
 Membership Directory and Handbook:  
     1963-1977  
     1978-1990  
 Public Policy Positions:  
     LWVSC, 2011-2017  
     LWVUS, c. 2014-2016  
 "Quarterly News," 1975-1976  
 "Report to the Community," 1971, 1978-1979  
 The SC Voter, 1990-2005, 2010-2016  
 Voter Service, General  
 Yearbook, 1949, 1967-1972      Miscellaneous

**Program:**

**Box 6b**

Administrative:  
     1963-1977  
     1978-1986  
     1987-2005 and no date  
 General:  
     1953-1972  
     1973-1993 and no date  
 Action:  
     General  
     Alerts, 1976-1993 and no date  
 Agriculture Update Consensus, 2014  
 Bread for the World, 1985  
 Corrections:  
     1977-1985  
     Mentally Ill Inmates, 2014  
 Children Welfare Issues  
 Community Conferences  
 District of Columbia, 1964-1973, 1979-1981  
 Education:  
     General:  
         1952-1966  
         1967-1968  
         1969  
         1970-1979  
         1980-1984, 1989-1991  
         1994-2009 and no date  
         No date  
 Clippings, 1966-1984 and no date  
 Department of Education, SC

Education Improvement Act:  
    General, 1983-1984  
LWVSC:  
    Abbeville Case, c. 2009-2015  
    How to Evaluate and Retain Effective Teachers Study, 2011-2013  
    Legislative Delegation Meeting, 2011  
LWVUS, Education Study Consensus, 2011  
    Clippings **Box 7**  
Equal Rights Amendment, 1972-1984:  
    General:  
        1972-1982  
        1983-1984 and no date  
    Board Reports, 1974-1981  
    Correspondence:  
        Local Leagues:  
            1978-1979  
            1980-1981  
        LWVUS:  
            1977-1979  
            1980-1982  
ERAmerica:  
    General, 1978-1981  
    "Report" [Newsletter], 1980-1981  
    Resource Packet (2 folders)  
ERA South Carolina:  
    General:  
        1967-1976  
        1977  
        1978-1979  
        1980  
        1981:  
            Jan.-Oct.  
            Nov.-Dec.  
        1982:  
            Jan.-Apr.  
            May-Dec.  
        No date (2 folders)  
    Abortion, 1976-1981  
    Advisory Committee, 1974-1978  
    Boycott, 1977-1980  
    Correspondence:  
        1979-1980, May  
        1980, July-1981  
    "ERA 1977" Handbook  
    Guidelines, 1977, 1980, 1982  
    International Women's Year, 1977:  
        General  
        Final Report of the State Meeting, June  
        National Women's Conference, Houston  
    Legislature:  
        1977  
        1980-1981  
    Military, 1977-1981:  
        General  
        Clippings  
    Minutes, 1979-1982  
    "New Girl Network" ("The Club"), c. 1979  
    Newsletter, 1978-1982

Opposition, 1977-1981:  
    General  
    Clippings  
Referendum, Marlboro County, 1978  
Religion:

    General, 1974-1982  
    People of Faith for ERA:  
        1981:  
            Jan.-July  
            Aug.-Dec.

**Box 8**

        1982  
        Religious Committee for the ERA, 1981-1982  
Schlafly, Phyllis, Testimony, Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Apr. 21, 1981  
"South Carolina Women" [Newsletter], 1980-1983  
Steering Committee:  
    1974-1976  
    1977  
    1978  
    1979-1980  
    1981-1982  
    "White House News on Women" [Newsletter], 1980  
    Women's History Week Curriculum Guide, 1981

Fund Raising:  
    General, 1977-1978  
    Ledger, 1977-1980  
National Business Council, 1980  
Publications:  
    Booklets (2 folders)  
    Pamphlets  
    Skits and Songs (2 folders)  
South Carolina Commission on Women, 1979  
Take Back the Night, 1984  
Women on Boards and Commissions, 1989-1991  
Women's Equality Day, 1979-1981

Clippings:  
    General:  
        1970-1976  
        1977  
        1978  
        1979  
        1980  
        1981  
        1982 (2 folders)  
        No date

    Cartoons  
    Editorials, 1979 (bound volume)  
    Homosexuality, 1977, 1980  
    Hunger Strike, 1982  
    Sexual Harassment, 1977-1981

Fluoridation, 1965-1967

Foreign:  
    Policy, 1966-1972, 1977-1985 and no date  
Trade:

    1953-1956  
    1962-1973

Health Care:  
    General, 1979-1984

Emergency  
Richland Memorial Hospital:  
    General:  
        1961-1972  
        1973-1980  
        No date

    Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations, 1972  
    Planning Survey, 1963  
    Reports, Miscellaneous, 1972-1979  
    Study of Policy and Administration, 1974  
    Ten Year Report, 1961/1971  
    Clippings, 1964-1983 and no date

Human Resources:  
    General:  
        1955-1969  
        1970-1971  
        1972-1978  
        1979-1985 and no date

    Clippings

Human Trafficking

Immigration

Judiciary, Diverse Judiciary Initiative

Local Government:  
    General, 1958-1983 and no date  
    Annexation, 1982-1985  
    City/County Consolidation:  
        General:  
            1942-1962  
            1963-1964  
            1965  
            1966  
            1967  
            1968  
            1969  
            1970  
            1971:  
                Jan.-May  
                June-Aug.  
                Sept.-Oct.  
                Nov.  
                Dec.  
            c. 1971  
            1972:  
                Jan.-Mar.  
                Apr.-June  
                Sept.-Dec., c. 1972  
            1973  
            1974:  
                Jan.-Apr.  
                May, c. 1974  
            1975-1976  
            1977-1980  
            1981-1993, 1997-1998  
            No date (3 folders)  
    Grant, 1976-1977  
    Home Rule [Form 4], 1975

**Box 9**

**Box 10**

Report, ... *Consolidation of all Tax Assessing, Billing, and Collection Procedures...*, 1966

Study Commission:

Draft Report, 1971-1972 (4 folders)

Final Report, 1972

Clippings:

1964-1966

1967

1968-1970

1971

1972

1974-1989 and no date

City Manager Study, c. 1949-1954

Development:

General:

1966, 1971-1977

1978-1979, Sept.

1979, Oct.-Dec.

1980:

Jan.-May

June-Dec.

1981

1982

1983, 2004-2005 and no date

No date (2 folders)

Columbia Downtown Development Project, Grant Application, Dec. 7, 1979

Community Development Block Grant Application, Fifth Year, 1978 (2 folders)

Congaree Vista, 1977-1989 and no date

Housing:

General:

1962, 1967-1968

1969-1973

1974

1975

1976-1977

1978

1979-1980

No date

Habitat '78, 1977-1979

Clippings, c. 1965-1976

Intercity Visit and Leadership Conference, Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Delegation, 1986

Lexington County Government Day, 1974

"Midlands Summit 1990"

Municipal, 1971-1992

Old Columbia High School, Survey, 1983

Regulations, 1970-1975

Riverbanks Zoo:

General, 1975-1976, 1983 and no date

Clippings, 1975-1976

Riverfront/Canal Advisory Committee, "River City":

1979-1980, June

1980, Sept.-Dec.

1981-1983

No date

"Visions 2000 / 2001" Task Force, 1986 (2 folders)

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1975-1980

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1981-1984 and no date

Finance:

- General, 1986
- Financing Local Government Task Force, 1994

Richland County Council:

- General, 1972-1992 and no date
- Clippings, 1981-1989 and no date
- Richland/Lexington Women's Political Caucus, 1973-1974

Loyalty-Security:

General:

- 1951-1955
- 1956
- 1957-1968 and no date

Clippings, 1954

Natural Resources:

- General, 1973-1993, 2013-2016 and no date

Air:

- 1969-1970
- 1971-1985 and no date

Energy:

- General, 1973-1982, c. 2013 and no date
- Nuclear, 1972-1988 and no date

Land Use:

- General, 1973-1979
- Coastal Zone Management, 1973-1982
- Sesquicentennial State Park, Sale Information, 1988

LWVCA Environmental Affairs:

- Correspondence, 2013-2014
- Reports, 2013-2015

Recycling, 1989-1992

Waste:

Hazardous:

- Household, 1990-1991
- Nuclear, 1978-1987, 2013-2016
- Solid, 1971-1975, 1991, 2013

Water:

General:

- 1964-1979
- 1980-1981
- 1982-1987 and no date

Clean Water 2020

Privatization, 2015 and c. 2015 Richland Library Referendum, 2013

Skits and Songs, General, 1951-1983 and no date

South Carolina Political History Project:

- General, 1980-1984
- Budget, 1980-1991

Speakers Bureau:

- General
- Evaluations

State Government:

Constitutional Revision:

General:

- 1966-1977
- 1978-1988
- Briefings and Minutes [misc. Board, Convention excerpts]
- Electoral College, 1968-1984 and no date

Legislative Day, 1968-1979

Legislature:

**Box 13**

1969-1974  
1975-1992 and no date  
Local Option Sales Tax, 1990  
Lottery, 1989  
Reapportionment:  
    General:  
        1964-1978  
        1979  
  
        1980-1985  
        No date  
        1990 Census, 1984-1991  
        Consensus Reports, 1966, 1981  
        Clippings, 1979-1985  
Voter Service:  
    General:  
        1949-1959  
        1960-1964  
        1965-1966  
        1967-1970  
        1971-1973  
        1974-1975  
        1976-1978  
        1979-1982, 1987-1992  
        1994-2003  
        2004-2007  
        No date  
    Candidate Forum:  
        General, 1972-1986, 2006 and no date  
        City Council, 2000  
        Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, 1984  
        Gubernatorial, 2004  
        Mayoral, Columbia, 1990  
        Presidential, 1980  
        S.C. House:  
            District 76, 1989  
            Miscellaneous Districts, 1982  
    Candidate Questionnaire:  
        General, 1952-1978, 1984  
        1970:  
            General Assembly  
            Miscellaneous  
        1971, General Assembly  
        1972:  
            Compiled Report  
            General Assembly:  
                General Election  
                Primary  
            Miscellaneous  
        1974:  
            General Assembly  
            Miscellaneous  
        1976, Miscellaneous  
        1978:  
            General Assembly  
            Richland County Council  
            School Board [Richland and Lexington]  
            Miscellaneous

**Box 14**

1979, Miscellaneous  
1980, Miscellaneous  
1982:  
    General Assembly  
    Miscellaneous  
1986, U.S. House and Senate  
Clippings, 1968, 1974, 1976  
Congressional Interview, 1970-1985 [Spence and Watson]  
Election Laws and Procedures:  
    General:  
        1967-1972  
        1973  
        1974-1975  
        1976-1988 and no date  
    Municipal Election Date, 2009-2012  
    Clippings, 1972-1986, 2012 and no date  
Election Night Reporting, 1974, 1980-1988 and no date  
Elections, 2013-2014 and no date  
Observers:  
    General, 1969-1988 and no date  
    Columbia City Council:  
        1969, 1972-1973  
        1974-1977  
  
    1978-1979  
    1980-1982  
    2009-2012  
Lexington County:  
    Council:  
        1973-1974  
        1975  
        1976  
        1977-1979  
    Delegation, 1973-1974  
    School District #2, 1977, 1979-1980  
Richland County:  
    Council:  
        1972-1973  
        1974  
        1975  
        1976-1980  
    Delegation, 1973-1980  
    Miscellaneous  
Political Accountability Ratings (PAR), 92<sup>nd</sup> - 98<sup>th</sup> Congresses, 1972-1984  
Poll Observers, 1974, 1976      Richland County Voter Participation Coalition, 1984  
Straw Poll, 1984 [State Fair]  
Voter Registration:  
    1966-1979  
    1980-1986  
    1987-1988 and no date  
Voting Rights:  
    General:  
        1970-1979  
        1981  
        1982-1984  
    Election Systems Project:  
        1971-1973  
        1988

**Box 15**

Richland County Roll-Call Voting, 2015  
Voter ID Law  
Clippings, 1971, 1981-1982, 2003, 2013-2015 and no date  
Voter Service Committee, 2013-2014  
Youth Voter Registration Project, 2012-2014 and no date  
Clippings, 1964-1989 and no date

**Clippings:**

General, 1971-1991, 1998-2006 and no date  
Election 1986, 1997, 2000, 2013-2014  
Thurmond, Strom, 1981

**Audiovisual:**

**Box 16**

Photographs (2 folders)

CDs:

The Right Choice: Our SC Public Schools, SC School Board Association toolkit (2 folders)  
PowerPoint about the lawsuit for the Corridor of Shame Schools

VHS:

An American Revolution: Women Take Their Place  
Our Democracy, Our Airwaves  
Women Vote 2004: The Margin of Victory