Candy Yaghjian Waites  
(b. 1943)  
Papers, 1964-2010

Volume: 9 linear feet
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Biographical Note:

“I want to be known as a representative who not only works hard for the people, but one who meets the highest standards of personal conduct and public service.”

- Candy Waites

Since 1973, Candy Waites has been a prominent figure in the Columbia community. A former president of the League of Women Voters of Columbia, Waites went on to serve on Richland County Council for twelve years. In 1988, Waites was elected State Representative for House District 75, a position she held for six years. In addition, she served Governor Jim Hodges as Director of Children’s Services and was Associate Dean of Leadership and a lecturer of Political Science at Columbia College.

A lifelong resident of Richland County, Candy Yaghjian Waites was born on February 21, 1943 to Edmund Yaghjian and Dorothy Candy. She earned a B.A. in English from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts in 1965. In 1997, she received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. In 1965, she married Robert G. Waites and they have two daughters.

With her mother active in the League of Women Voters, it is no surprise that Waites had an early interest in politics. She made national news as a senior at Wheaton College. The presidential election of 1964 was the first election in which Waites was eligible to vote. At that time South Carolina did not allow residents who attended college out of state to get an absentee ballot. Students at Wheaton started the “Cokes for Candy” campaign where students donated 10 cents (the price of a coke) to raise money for Waites to get a flight home so she could vote on election day. When the story hit the news, donations and letters of support came in from all over the country. Partially as a result of this campaign, South Carolina amended the absentee ballot law the following year.

From 1973 to 1976, Waites served as the president of the League of Women Voters of Columbia/Richland County. After being contacted by both the Democratic and Republican parties about running for office, she left the post to run as a Democrat for the Richland County Council and became the first woman elected to the Council. Re-elected in 1980 and 1984, she served on the Council for twelve years. Waites served as Chairman of the Council in 1979 and served as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Development and Services Committee during her tenure. In addition, she sat on the Central Midlands Regional Planning Council Board from 1977 to 1984 and the Richland County Coordinating Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect in 1977. Governor Richard Riley appointed Waites to the Advisory
Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and the SC Interagency Council on Public Transportation.

In June 1988, Waites was elected to the SC House of Representatives in a special election. She was re-elected to a full term in November 1988. During her time in the House, she served on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the Nuclear Waste Consultation Committee, and the Local Government Study Committee. She also co-chaired the Freshmen Caucus and was secretary of the Democratic Caucus. In 1994, she decided not to pursue re-election due to district reapportionment.

Outside of public office, Waites has served her community in many ways. She was on the Wachovia Bank Advisory Board, the Columbia Housing Authority Board, the Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, and Capital Senior Center Board. She was also the Director of External Programs for The Leadership Institute and Lecturer in Political Science at Columbia College. During Governor Jim Hodges’ administration, Waites served on his team as Director of Children’s Services.

Waites has received many accolades for her commitment to her community throughout the years. In 1975, she was the Jaycees Outstanding Woman of the Year. She was named Legislator of the Year for 1992 and the following year was inducted into the YWCA Tribute to Women and Industry Hall of Fame. In 1998, she received the ATHENA Award which recognizes women in leadership and business. The following year, Waites was elected to the National ATHENA Foundation Board.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Candy Waites collection consists of ten linear feet of material, 1964 to 2010, divided into five series: Public, Personal, Speeches, Clippings, and Photographs.

Public papers make up the largest series of the collection with almost five feet of material. These papers reflect Waites’ legislative efforts in the Richland County Council from 1976 to 1988, the General Assembly from 1988 to 1994, and her interest in the issues of ethics, the environment, women, children, and education. Of note are the ethics conference and committee reports with Waites’ handwritten notes, and the legislative action regarding the Barnwell Radioactive Waste Management Facility and the Savannah River Plant.

Personal papers include materials from Wheaton College, as well as recognitions from various organizations. Also present are materials from her campaigns for Richland County Council and State Representative from 1976 to 1994, including opposition research and questionnaires. Of
note are district maps and lists showing the campaign walking routes for the 1988 campaign, canvassing notes from the different wards, and lists of voting statistics.

Speeches are arranged chronologically, 1976 to 2010, and include both speeches she gave as an elected official and outside of public office.

Clippings document her family, the “Cokes for Candy” campaign at Wheaton, her County Council and House campaigns, and her work in the General Assembly, most notably regarding issues of ethics, the environment, and the Confederate Flag. Also of note are scrapbooks that include clippings from all of her campaigns as well as her time at Wheaton. They are housed with SCPC scrapbooks.

Photographs include portraits for campaign materials, family photos, and one folder of photos from the “Cokes for Candy” campaign at Wheaton College, showing Waites parading through campus with her fellow students to fundraise for her trip to South Carolina.

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**Box List**

**Biographical Information**

**Public:**
- General
- Abortion
- Businesses
- Children:
  - General
  - Act to Leave No Child Behind, 2001
  - Alliance for South Carolina Children
- Child Care:
  - General (2 folders)
  - Child Care Coordinating Council (2 folders)
  - Early Education
  - Employee Child Care
  - Task Force on the Cost of Quality Early Care and Education (2 folders)
- Children’s Services
- Foster Care/Adoption
- Health:
  - General
  - Drugs
  - Mental Health
- City/County Consolidation:
  - 1972-1992
- City Maintenance and Zoning

**Confederate Flag:**
- General
  - American Spirit Foundation, “Circle of Flags”
- Crime
- Education:
  - General
  - Higher:
General
The Citadel
Richland County School District 1
Salary Inequality

Energy. See Environment
Environment:
General
Correspondence
Nuclear Energy:
General
Barnwell Radioactive Waste Management Facility:
General:
1986-1993
1994, n.d.
Closing:
General:
1991 - Feb. 1992
Legislation
Inspections
Low-Level Radioactive Waste:
General
Draft Resolution
Legislation
Transcripts of Hearings:
January 9, 1992
January 15, 1992

North Carolina
Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee
Southeast Compact Commission

Savannah River Site:
General
Briefing Book for Visit to SRS
Reactors
Safety
Waste Management
Waste:
General
Monitored Retrievable Storage:
1989-March 1994
April 1994 & n.d.

Toxic Use Reduction
Waste:
General
GSX/Laidlaw:
General
Legislative Seminar
Stipulated Agreement with Department of Health and Environmental Control

Hazardous Waste:
Management:
General
Task Force Report to the Board of DHEC, July 1988

Ethics:
- General
- Campaign Finance Reform:
  - General
  - Common Cause
  - Fair Campaign Practices; Fair campaign Pledge
- Ethics, Government Accountability, & Campaign Reform Act of 1991:
  - General

  Conference Report (2 folders)
  Ethics Conference Committee: 1991
  Box 4
- Judicial, 1989-1994
- Legislative Conference on Ethics led by the Lieutenant Governor, 1990-1991
- Lobbyists
- Roof, Phil, Chairman of the board for Architectural Engineering Associates
- South Carolina State Ethics Commission:
  - General
  - Legislation

Gambling
- Gays and Lesbians

General Assembly:
- General
- Candy Waites Report, Voter Correspondence
- Casework
- Correspondence
- Democratic Caucus
- Elections:
  - General
  - Term Limits
- Invitations
- Legislative Voting Records:
  - General
  - Legislative Scorecards
- South Carolina Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
- State Agencies
- State Employees:
  - General
  - Women in the Workforce
  - State Mandate Funding

Health:
- General

  Medicaid
  Mental Health

Hilton Hotel in the Vista:
- General
- Correspondence
- Transaction Structure

Home Rule Election Policies
Housing
Judicial:
- General
- Judges
  Richland County Courthouse
- Richland County Council Correspondence, 1976-1988

Box 5
Social Work Licensing
Taxes:
  General
  Homestead Exemption
Transportation

**Personal:**
Campaigns:
  General
1976:
  General
  Fund Raising
  Opposition Research
  Questionnaires
1980
1984
1988:
  General (3 folders)
  Black Voter List
  Contributors List
  Correspondence:
    General
    Voter Canvassing by Phone (2 folders)

Fund Raising
Opposition Research
White Voters List (2 folders)

1990:
  General
  Contributors List
  Opposition Research
  Questionnaires
1992
1994
  General
  Correspondence
Canvassing Notebook, n.d.
  Ward 8 and 9
  Ward 11
  Ward 12
  Ward 13
  Ward 14
  Ward 33
  Hampton
Elections Results, 1980-1991
Other Politicians Campaigns, 1978-1993

Columbia College
Correspondence:
  General
    Congratulations – Director of Children’s Services
Democratic Party
Recognitions:
  General
    Athena Award
    Columbia Jaycees Outstanding Young Woman Award
    Legislator of the Year
Toal, Jean
University of South Carolina
Wheaton College:
  General
  “Cokes for Candy”
  Correspondence
Women:
  General
  Center for American Women in Politics Forum for Newly Elected Women State Legislators
ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)
International Women’s Year:
  General
  Conferences, 1977:
    June
    Nov.
Publications:
  1976, “…To Form a More Perfect Union…”
  1978, “The Spirit of Houston”
Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics
Women’s History Month

Speeches: (see the appendix for a detailed list of speeches)
  1976-1978
  1980-1981
  1982-1983
  1985-1986
  1987
  1988
  1989
  1990
  1991-1992
  1993-1994
  1995-1999
  2000
  2001-2002
  2003-2010
  Not dated

Clippings:  
  General
  Abortion
  Artwork
  Children
  Columbia College
Confederate Flag:
  1989
  1993
  1994
  1995
  1996
  1997-1998
  1999
  2000
  n.d.
Correctional Facilities
Education:
  General
The Citadel
Elections:
1976
1980
1984
1988:
    General
    Opposition Research, Ray Rossi
1990
1994
Environment:
    General
    GSX/Laidlaw
Nuclear:
    General
    Barnwell:
    1981-1993
    Savannah River Site
Ethics:
    General
    Charlie Condon
    Lobbyists
    Phil Roof
Reform
Family
General Assembly:
    General
    City/County Consolidation
    County Council
    Hilton Hotel in the Vista Issue
    Mandates
    Mike Fair
    Term Limits
Home Rule
International Women’s Year
Recognitions
Republican National Committee/Atwater
Toal, Jean
Wheaton College:
    General
    “Cokes for Candy”
Women in Government
Women in the Workforce
Photos
    General:
    1960s
    1970s
    1980s
    1990s
    No Date
Central Correctional Institute Tour, 1984
Columbia College Convocation, 1990
Photos removed from 1960s Scrapbook
Appendix: Speeches

1976, July 20 – Running For Political Office, Sertoma Club

1977:
   Jan. 11 – “Changing Role of Women,” Zonta Club
   Mar. 16 – Speech on Home Rule
   Mar. 24 – Running for Political Office, Richland County Democratic Women

1978: Sept. 19 – Role of the Volunteer in the Legislative Process, Sierra Club

1980:
   Feb. 11 – “How Can You Be Superwoman?” Greater Richland Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association
   Apr. 26 – Running for Political Office, American Society for Public Administration
   Oct. 22 – Women in Politics, Professional Women of Columbia Luncheon (also used at Columbia Business and Professional Women, July 12, 1983)

1981:
   May 2 – Home Rule, League of Women Voters Conference, Spartanburg
   June 12 – Women in Politics, Girls State

1982:
   Jan. 23 – Future Role of Women in Politics, Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (also used at American Business Women’s Association, Columbia Chapter, Nov. 22, 1982)
   Mar. 31 – How to Influence Government Decisions, SC Perinatal Association
   Oct. 27 – “Remembrance,” Teacher Recognition Breakfast, Columbia

1983:
   July 18 – Activities of Your Local Government, Columbia Kiwanis Club
   July 26 – Home Rule, The Columbia Forum (with Rudy Barnes)
   Aug. 10 – “Women in Politics,” NOW Annual Conference, Charleston

1985:
   Mar. 4 – Women’s History Week, Art Education Class, Columbia College
   Mar. 4 – Women’s History Week, Social Psychology Class, Columbia College
   Aug. 7 – Medically Indigent Program, SC Institute on Poverty and Deprivation
   Aug. 13 – Women in Public Office, SC Association of Counties Elected Women’s Breakfast, N. Myrtle Beach
   Oct. 8 – “Volunteerism; its History, Problems, and Importance,” Rape Crisis Network

1986:
   Mar. 12 – “Getting it Done,” The Competitive Edge, A Workshop for Professional Secretaries, College of Business Administration, University of South Carolina
   June 6 – Statement for Jim Barber Lt. Governor Campaign, Columbia

1987:
   Feb. 9 – Local Government Finance Act, Richland Sertoma Club
   Mar. 5 – Local Government Finance Act, Metropolitan Business Club
   May 11 – Lexington Co. Hospital Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

1988:
   Feb. 9 – Local Government Funding Sources, Leadership Columbia
   July 13 – “From the Boardroom to the Statehouse,” SC Chapter National Association of Social Workers
   Aug. 23 – Savannah River Plant Safety
   Sept. 13 – Women in Politics – Business & Professional Women, Capitol Chapter
   Sept. 21 – Announcing Candidacy for Re-election for House District 75
   Oct. 5 – Owens Field Airport Safety and Noise, Joint Statement with Rep. Tim Rogers, D-Richland
   Oct. 12 – Re-Election
   Oct. 27 – Savannah River Plant Health and Environmental Conditions
   Nov. 1 – Property Tax
1989:
- Mar. 31 – Women’s History Month, Fort Jackson Women
- Apr. 20 – Statement at Savannah River Plant Public Hearing
- Apr. 25 – Statement regarding the Architectural Engineering Associates, Inc. contract
- Oct. 12 – “Storage of Nuclear Waste in SC from Colorado”
- Oct. 21 – The Legislative Process, League of Women Voters Presidents
1990:
- Apr. 24 – “Legislative Priorities for the 1990s,” Environmental Quality Conference, DHEC
- June 5 – Department of Energy Public Hearing
- Sept. 12 – Columbia College Convocation
- Nov. 9 – “Why are Women Needed in Public Office?,” Women on Boards and Commissions, Columbia College
1991:
- May 10 – USC School of Public Health Hooding Ceremony
- Oct. 29 – Task Force on Critical Issues in Child Deaths
1992:
- Feb. 13 – Southeastern Compact
- Mar. 14 – Barnwell Safety
- Mar. 20 – Ethics – High School Guidance Counselors, Columbia College
- Mar. 28 – “Why Do We Need Ethics Legislation?,” SC School Board Association, Hilton Head Island
1993:
- Oct. 20 – Student Council Installation, Dreher High School
- Oct. 28 – How to get Involved, SC Nurses Association
1994:
- Oct. 5 – “You Can’t Lead Where You Won’t Go,” Women as Leaders, Omicron Delta Kappa Society, Columbia College
- Nov. 8 – Leadership Class, Columbia College
- Nov. 13 – Omicron Delta Kappa Installation, USC
1997, Sept. 26 – “What is the YWCA?,” YWCA Regional Meeting, Sumter
1999:
- June 3 – Glenforest School Commencement Address
- Sept. 10 – Statement before the Department of Mental Health
2002:
- June 19 – “Women as Policy Makers,” USC Social Studies Teachers/Charlie Tyre Government Class
- June 26 – “Envisioning the Future,” Summer Leadership Program, Columbia College
- Sept. 23 – “Choices Leaders Make,” Stepping Up To Leadership, Columbia College
2003:
- Dec. 1 – Women in Politics, Columbia College Political Science Class
2004, Nov. 8 – “Plans Change,” SCDOT Women’s Forum, Fort Jackson Officers’ Club
2010, Aug. 26 – South Carolina Gubernatorial Appointments Project, Columbia