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

Volume: 9 linear feet

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Provenance: Donated by the Honorable Candy Y. Waites

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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.

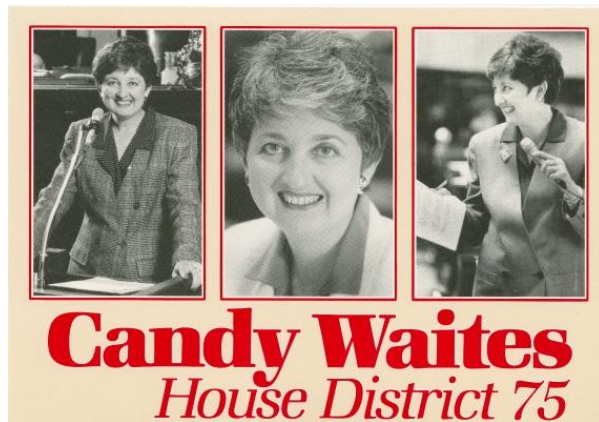
A lifelong resident of Richland County, Candy Yaghjian Waites was born on February 21, 1943 to Edmund Yaghjian and Dorothy Candy. She earned a B.A. in English from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts in 1965. In 1997, she received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina.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

**Box 1****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
  - 1993-1994, n.d.
- City Maintenance and Zoning

**Confederate Flag:****Box 2**

- 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
          - Mar. 1992 – July 1992, n.d.
        - Legislation
      - Inspections
      - Low-Level Radioactive Waste:
        - General
        - Draft Resolution
        - Legislation
        - Transcripts of Hearings:
          - January 9, 1992
          - January 15, 1992

**Box 3**

- North Carolina
- Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee
- Southeast Compact Commission
- U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report, 1982
- 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.
  - “Nuclear Waste: Is There a Need for Federal Interim Storage?” – Report of the Monitored Retrievable Storage Review Commission, Nov. 1, 1989
- Toxic Use Reduction
- Waste:
  - General
  - GSX/Laidlaw:
    - General
    - Legislative Seminar
    - Stipulated Agreement with Department of Health and Environmental Control
  - Hazardous Waste:
    - Management:
      - General
      - “Waste Management Practices of RSR Corporation,” 1994

## 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, &amp; Campaign Reform Act of 1991:

General

Conference Report (2 folders)

Ethics Conference Committee: 1991

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 4****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

Volunteers, 1988, 1990, n.d.

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

**Box 6**

Toal, Jean  
University of South Carolina  
Wheaton College:

**Box 7**

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:**

**Box 8**

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

1994-2008, n.d.

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

**Box 9**

## 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
- Feb. 19 – “Consolidation Legislation,” SC Association of Counties
- 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

1995, Jan. 12 – “Ethics, Lobbying, and Campaign Finance Reform” – Fourth Biennial Workshop for Freshman Tennessee State Legislators, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, Nashville, TN

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

2001, Feb. 6 – “Impact of Legislation on Health, Environment, and People,” SC Public Health Association

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:

- Feb. 13 – Women in Politics, USC Government and International Studies Program
- 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