

Inventory of the

**Joliet Region
League of Women Voters
Joliet, Illinois**

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 143

INTRODUCTION

Florence Dittle, President, donated the Joliet Region League of Women Voters Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 5, 1982.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2
Number of Containers: 2
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 143

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Joliet Region League of Women Voters Records provide documentation on governmental and social concerns for the Joliet and Will County areas as well as information on League activities from 1950 to 1981. The only major gap in the materials occurs between 1955 and 1961. The collection is arranged in the following manner: 1) histories-local, state, and national, 2) meeting minutes, 3) yearbooks and membership handbooks, 4) topical files, 5) publications, 6) newspaper clippings, photographs, and scrapbooks.

The topical files provide detailed information on research projects undertaken by League members. Material on education in Joliet is the most comprehensive and includes historical documentation of the development of unit districts. Other topics include civil rights, the Illinois constitutional convention, intergovernmental relations in Will County, permanent voters registration, and the sanitary district. Information on government and political candidates can be found in the publications and newspaper clippings. District maps for particular townships and Will County also are available. Of special note is a final report written about the League's Will County Court Monitoring Project in 1977 which contains observations and recommendations for change in the judicial system.

Researchers studying government and politics in northern Illinois are advised to check the other League of Women Voters collections held by the Center as well as the politicians' papers. Information on education also is available in the local government records collection. Please see the Center guide for more information.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Joliet League of Women Voters formed and received provisional status from the National League in 1950. The thirty-one charter members, plus additionally recruited women, undertook three programs that year--a "Know Your Town" study, a study of the unit system in education, and a Voters Service program. Their continued determination through 1951 earned them local league status from the national board on March 20, 1952. Since then the Joliet League has worked to "promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government."

The League's programs and projects over the years focused on many topics. In 1954 they studied and supported the Council-Manager form of government which passed in November of the same year. The busy year of 1956 included a "Know Your County" study, supporting a

successful referendum for grade school education tax rate increase, working with the Citizens Committee, preparing a "Handbook for New Residents" and cooperating with efforts for a Unit School District. Other projects through their history included studying the desirability of permanent registration for local elections, studying methods to improve assessment and collection of property taxes, and studying all measures which would assure full enjoyment of civil rights and liberties by all citizens of the community.

Currently, the League continues to hold candidates' meetings (the first occurred in 1951), conducts studies on topics of social concern, and supports measures such as an open space plan for the Will County Forest Preserve District, effective county planning and coordination with communities, and recommendations of the Will County Court Monitoring project. Their research and subsequent publications provide important political information to the citizens of Joliet and Will County.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Constitutional Convention, Illinois
Joliet
Joliet Region League of Women Voters
League of Women Voters
Politics
Will County
Women's Organization

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	History, Joliet League, 1950-1976	
	2	History, Illinois League, 1960, 1970	
	3	History, National League, 1946-1966	
	4	Awards and Proclamations, (1966-1975)	
	5-17	Meeting Minutes, (August 1950-March 1977)	
	18	Annual Meeting Minutes and Agenda, 1978-1980	
	19-21	Yearbooks, (1953-1981)	
	22	Membership Handbooks, 1964, 1975	
	23	Assessing and Taxing of Property in Will County, 1964-1965	
	24	<u>Citizens Guide to the Property Tax in Will County</u> , 1981	
	25	Candidates' Meetings Suggestions, (1968-1982)	
	26-27	Candidates' Meetings, (1954-1968)	
	28	Civil Rights, 1966-1967	
	29-30	Constitutional Convention in Illinois, (1959-1970)	
	31-33	Education in Joliet, 1948-1969	
	34	Intergovernmental Relations in Will County, 1962-1968	
	35	Joliet Local Government, n.d.	
	36	Permanent Voter Registration, 1950-1965	
	37	Sanitary District (DesPlaines Valley), 1954-1957	
	38	Township Government and Social Relief, 1963-1969	
	39	Voters Service Information, (1950-1981)	
	40	Voters Guides, 1958-1980	
	41	<u>Voting is People Power</u> , 1967-1970	
	42	County Court Monitoring Project, 1977	
	43	Will County Juvenile Court Watching Project, 1981	
	44	<u>A Handbook for Joliet Residents and Other Voters'</u> Information, n.d.	
	45	<u>Our Local Governments, Will County</u> , 1960	
	46	<u>Will County Voters' Handbook</u> , 1966	
	47	<u>Directory of Organizations and Brief Facts About Joliet</u> , 1961	
	48-53	District Maps, 1971-1977 (DuPage, Joliet, Lockport, Plainfield, and Troy Townships and Will County)	
	54	Apportionment Maps and Descriptions for Illinois, 1976	
	55	Newspaper Clippings, 1955-1975	
	56	Photographs, 1958-1971 (11)	
	2	3 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1950-1961