

Inventory of the

League of Women Voters of Elgin
Elgin, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 137

INTRODUCTION

Doretta Williams, representing the League of Women Voters of Elgin, donated the organization's records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on September 21, 1981. Additional records were donated in 1986 by Gen Dolan and in 1996 and 2001 by Janet Poyner.

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: 2.5
Number of containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 137

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the League of Women Voters of Elgin date from 1929-2001 and contain meeting minutes, monthly bulletins, annual reports, correspondence, topical files, state and national files, and scrapbooks. The collection contains a wide variety of information on League programs and projects during the 1960's. In particular, topical files describe the League's work in welfare, housing discrimination, equal opportunity, the development of human resources, the Kane County food stamp program, and the Illinois Constitutional Convention. The meeting minutes, which also contain annual reports, budgets, and correspondence, and the monthly bulletins further document the organization's programs. The collection contains two publications written and put out by the League on Elgin and Kane County government; Elgin on the Fox and Know Your County.

For further information on the history of the northern Illinois League of Women Voters the researchers should consult other League collections held by the Regional History Center: DeKalb (RC 118); Joliet Region (RC 143); Geneva-St. Charles (RC 149); Aurora (RC 151); and Rockford (RC 178). Other women's organization collections can be found in the Guide to Resources: Northern Illinois History found in the Center's Reading Room.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Due to the lack of historical records on the early years of the Elgin League of Women Voters, it is only known that the group organized on May 28, 1929. Their purpose, however, is known and has remained the same throughout their history; to promote political responsibility through informed active participation of citizens in government and to take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. To accomplish these tasks, the Elgin League held public forums and debates and published literature to inform the public. Topics of concern ranged from

Chinese culture to school board candidates' meetings. For example, in 1962 the organization worked for a convention to provide an improved constitution in Illinois as well as holding joint discussions with the American Association for University Women on the common market. In 1967 they had meetings on equal opportunity for education and employment nation-wide and worked against housing discrimination in Elgin. In any year, their greatest contribution to political knowledge is the publication and dissemination of voters information.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Elgin
Elgin League of Women Voters
Kane County
League of Women Voters
Politics
Women's Organization

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	By-Laws, 1938, 1967, 1993, 1996
	2	Acceptance into Illinois League of Women Voters, n.d.
	3	Non-Partisanship Policy, 1966-1980
	4	Political Activity Policy, 1980, 1996
	5-13	Meeting Minutes and Reports, (1929-1995)
	14-16	Annual Reports, 1939-1942, (1962-1971)
	17	Annual Programs, 1965-1972, 1980-1981
	18	General Correspondence, 1962-1971, 1974
	19	Correspondence with State League, 1948, 1969-1971
	20	Membership Lists, (1951-1971)
	21	Budgets, Annual and Monthly, 1964-1971
	22	Proposed Budgets, 1948-1960, 1965-1970
	23-28	Monthly Bulletins, (1965-1996)
	2	1
2		Kane County Council League Women Voters, (1965-1977) Topical Files:
3		Local Government, 1954, 1968-1969
4		Sanitary District of Elgin, 1970-1971
5		Candidates' (for Local Offices) Forums, 1969
6		Comprehensive Health Planning, 1972-1973
7		Equal Opportunity Employment, (1964-1970)
8		Head Start Program, 1965-1968
9		Human Resources-Alternatives to Welfare, 1969-1970
10		Natural Resources Development, 1968, 1971
11		Public Housing Authority, 1966-1970, 1981
12		Public Schools, 1968-1970
13		Representation in Congress for the District of Columbia, 1970
14		Welfare, (1963-1967)
15		Welfare Reform, 1968-1973
16		Youth Corrections and Institutionalization Pamphlets, 1963-1967
3		Kane County Topical Files:
	1	Food Stamp Program, 1970-1971
	2	Health, 1967-1972
	3	Welfare Coalition, 1970-1973

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4	
3	4	State and National Files: State Programs, 1947-1950; Guidelines, 1963-1966; Illinois Constitutional Convention, 1968-1970		
	5	Development of Human Resources, 1964-1971		
	6	50th Anniversary Campaign, 1969-1970		
	7	Citizens for Better Government of Elgin, 1971		
	8	<u>Elgin on the Fox</u> , 1978		
	9	<u>Know Your County</u> , 1965		
	10	<u>Proceedings</u> , First Annual Conference on the Fox River and Its' People, 1970		
	1 vol.	Scrapbook, 1951-1966		
	4	1 vol.	Scrapbook, 1966-1967	

ADDENDUM

1	Agendas and Monthly Board Minutes, (February 1975-October 1999)
2	Annual Meeting, Reports and Minutes, 1975-2001
3	Directories, (1995-2001)
4-6	Bulletins, 1997-2008
7	Newspaper Clippings, 1968, 1995-2001, n.d.
8	<u>What Makes Elgin Tick</u> , July 1956