

Collection #
M 1269

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1930–2010

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 slide

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1930s-2010

PROVENANCE: League of Women Voters of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN; December 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: League of Women Voters of Indiana Records Addition (M 1052); League of Women Voters of Indiana Records (M 0612); League of Women Voters of Indianapolis (M 0611); Woman's Franchise League of Indiana (SC 1761);

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0350

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The League of Women Voters was formed from the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1920 after women won the right to vote. The same year, the Indiana League affiliate was organized from the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana. Mrs. Richard Edwards of Peru, Indiana, former president of the Woman's Franchise League, an organization formed in 1911 from the Woman's School League, and newly appointed national League treasurer, was instrumental in promoting the new organization in the state. A.H. Beardsley of Elkhart became the Indiana League's first president.

From its beginning, the League focused on championing woman and child rights by supporting such legislation as the Sheppard-Towner Act (1923) which established funds for education in maternal and child hygiene, the Child Labor Amendment (1924), and the Civil Service Reclassification Act (1923). During World War II, the League dedicated itself to choosing the best senators and representatives at the national elections to promote wise legislation. Its anti-isolationist stand after the War upheld the principle of international cooperation for establishment of world institutions for maintenance of law and order.

The Indiana LWV has been active on several issues. These concerns include the Bricker Amendment, proposed in the early 1950s to limit the Federal government's treaty-making powers; civil rights; conservation; education and school finance; foreign policy; health care; home rule; active government; merit system for employment; reapportionment; status of women; taxation; child welfare; and world trade.

Much of the organization's work is conducted through local leagues. These associations, affiliated with the state and national leagues are at the township, city, or county level. Topics and issues of concern include the national budget, home rule, foreign policy, local government, school reorganization, voter service, the United Nations, and world trade.

Through the years the Indiana League of Women Voters has worked to protect voting rights and has provided information on government operations, public issues, and election procedures and candidates. Its purpose, as outlined in its 1961 bylaws, is to "promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government." Although a nonpartisan organization, the League "may take action on state governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States." The League remains an active civic organization.

Sources:

Material in the collection

Greenough, Katherine Croan, *History of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1920–1952*. Indianapolis: League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1977.

Pumroy, Eric and Paul Brockman, *A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana*

Historical Society and Indiana State Library. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains organizational records for the League of Women Voters of Indiana. This includes board contact lists, board minutes, training materials and guides for local leagues, league bylaws and policies, materials on the league's finance reform campaign, materials recognizing local leagues, correspondence, development and fundraising materials, workshop and event materials, materials regarding the Indiana Commission for Women, minutes of the Indiana Education Fund, investment reports, media kits, liaison materials, records of an ad campaign, materials on the league poll worker study and their formal position, annual president's reports, press releases, newsletters, website materials, and office management agreements.

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