

Collection #  
SC 3435  
OM 0674

**ELIZABETH MCCAIN  
ERA MATERIALS, 1974–1977**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript folders  
1 oversize manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1974-1977

PROVENANCE: Elizabeth McCain, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: ERA Indiana Campaign Oral Histories and Research (M 1367)  
ERA Indiana Materials (M 1208)  
Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment Records (M 0636)  
Joline Moore Ohmart Papers (M 0610)  
Indiana NOW Collection (M 0583)  
Indiana Women's Political Caucus Records (M 0709)  
International Women's Year Records (M 0545)  
Virginia Dill McCarty Papers (M 1316)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0270

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

**Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** Although the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and subsequent years, both houses of Congress did not pass the ERA until 1972. When the amendment was sent out to the states with a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979, thirty states ratified within the first year. However, in this time, opposition to the amendment also began to organize and solidify, most notably from Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum/STOP ERA. Hence, the needed eight more ratifications trickled in.

In August 1973, Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment (HERA) was established to stir up public support and lobby lawmakers to pass the amendment after the Equal Rights Amendment was not ratified by the 1973 Indiana General Assembly. The organization disbanded in 1976, as publicity and advocacy efforts were taken over by operatives for the National Organization for Women. The campaign was successful, and the ERA was ratified by the state of Indiana on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1977, bringing the count to thirty five states. Chances of getting three more states by the deadline looked grim as tides turned more conservative, so NOW and other pro-ERA groups were able to lobby Congress for an extension. Congress granted an extension until June 30, 1982 and pro-ERA groups re-focused on targeting three more states for ratification.

**The International Women's Year (IWY)** was created by the United Nations and private organizations to call attention to women's issues in 1977. The national organization that oversaw the year's activities was the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year; each state had its own Coordinating Committee which raised funds and served as an outreach point to the community.

Sources:

Collection guide for ERA Indiana Campaign Oral Histories and Research (M 1367)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains ERA- and IWY-related newspaper clippings, brochures, articles, and other papers collected by Elizabeth McCain in her writings for the Common Cause of Indiana newsletter.

## CONTENTS

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Correspondence, 1974-1977

ERA Ratification Promotional Document, 1977

Flyers and resources, ca. 1977

Magazine articles, 1977

Newspaper clippings, 1974-1977

U.S. Supreme Court *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*, 1975

### CONTAINER

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