

**Collection #**  
**M 1417**  
**OM 0694**  
**BV 5378**

**EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT  
MATERIALS, CA. 1960–1990**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Series Contents	4

Processed by

Jessica Fischer  
August 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 2 oversized manuscript folders, 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1960–1990

PROVENANCE: Dorothy Steinmeier, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: ERA Indiana Materials, M 1208; Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment Records, M 0636; Indiana Women's Political Caucus Records, M 0709; International Women's Year Records, M 0545; ERA Indiana Campaign, M1367

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1990.0110

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

**Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** Although the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923, 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 22 March 1979, thirty states ratified within the first year. However, opposition to the amendment also began to organize and solidify, most notably from Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum/STOP ERA. Eight more ratifications were needed to adopt the ERA, and because of the opposition, few 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 24 January 1977, bringing the count to thirty-five states. Chances of getting three more states by the deadline looked grim as conservative opposition gained more popularity. As a result, NOW and other pro-ERA groups asked Congress for an extension. Congress granted the extension until 30 June 1982 and pro-ERA groups re-focused on targeting three more states for ratification.

*\*Taken from IHS Collection Guide, ERA Indiana Campaign, M 1367*

**Dorothy Steinmeier:** Dorothy Steinmeier was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1916. She grew up on the north side of Indianapolis and graduated from Broad Ripple High School. She attended Butler University for a short time before transferring to the University of Wisconsin. There she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. Dorothy's first position out of college was at Indiana State Farm where she worked her way up to Associate Editor of the *Hoosier Farmer*. She worked in several other writing-related positions, including a brief stint as the Feature Writer for the U.S. Constabulary of the U.S. Army in Germany during World War II and a position at the Bookwalter Company, before finding her passion in politics. By the 1960s, Dorothy was working in Public Relations for the Indiana State Democratic Campaign Headquarters in women's affairs and then later the Indiana Democratic State Central Committee. She spent the latter half of the 1960s working as Associate Director of Information for the Indiana Department of Commerce before moving on to be the Assistant Editor for *The Indiana Teacher* from 1967–71. Throughout her life, Dorothy was a member of several writing organizations including Women in Communications, Woman's Press Club of Indiana, and National Board of the National Federation of Press Women, and Indiana's ERA organization. Dorothy passed away in 2006.

Sources:

Collection Guide for ERA Indiana Campaign, M1367

"Dorothy E. Steinmeier" Legacy.com. February 2006.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/indystar/obituary.aspx?n=dorothy-e-steinmeier&pid=144621771>.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

### *Series 1:*

The first series in this collection contains materials related to the Equal Rights Amendment, primarily through the 1960s and 1970s. Materials were collected by Dorothy Steinmeier and include brochures, letters, communications, event programs, news clippings, newsletters, and one book. There are several groups represented in the materials, including Women in Communications, Inc., President's Commission on the Statue of Women, ERAmerica, League of Women Voters, and Hoosiers for Equal Rights Amendment (HERA).

### *Series 2:*

The second series consists of materials specific to Dorothy Steinmeier. This includes letters and communications as well as her personal notes, all relating to the ERA. There are two folders that Dorothy compiled: one on Indiana Women and one on Indiana's Women Who Fought for Passage of the ERA. Both folders include a note from Dorothy describing what she included in the file.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Equal Rights Amendment**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
"History of Democratic Women", Pamphlet, 1960; Indiana Democratic National Women's Day Program, 1975	Box 1, Folder 1
Letters of Support for ERA, J.F.K. and L.B.J, October 1960; Letter of Support for Women's Rights, Vance Hartke, June 1975	Box 1, Folder 2
Indiana Hours of Work and Minimum Wage Act, ca. 1960s	Box 1, Folder 3
U.S. Department of Labor, Publications Concerning Women Workers, ca. 1960–1970s	Box 1, Folder 4
Politician Lists, ca. 1960–1970s	Box 1, Folder 5
Indiana Postsecondary Educational Opportunities, Inventory Publication, ca. 1960s; Women in Communications, Inc., 75th Anniversary Newsletter, 1984	OM 0694: Folder 1
ERA Related Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1960–1980s	Box 1, Folder 6
National Catholic Weekly, ERA Article, 1962; United Methodist Church, ERA Position Statement, ca. 1974	Box 1, Folder 7
"Report of Governor's Conference on the Status of Women", Transcript, 1963	Box 1, Folder 8
"American Women: Report of the Presidents Commission on the Status of Women", Booklet, 1963	Box 1, Folder 9
President's Commission on the Statue of Women, Informational Materials, ca. 1963	Box 1, Folder 10
Governor's Conference on the Status of Women, Brochure, Program, and Questionnaire, 1964	Box 1, Folder 11
DNC News Release–Margaret Price and Call for Women Volunteers, 1964	Box 1, Folder 12
ERAmerica, Communications, ca. 1970s	Box 1, Folder 13

ERA Brochures, ca. 1970s	Box 1, Folder 14
Bibliography of Selected Writings, Women in the Workforce, ca. 1970s	Box 1, Folder 15
Political Campaign Brochures, ca. 1970s	Box 1, Folder 16
Citizen's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, ERA Publications, Ca. 1971–1975	Box 1, Folder 17
Anti-ERA Publications, 1972–1975	Box 1, Folder 18
Congressional Record, Newsletter, 1972, 1977, 1978	Box 1, Folder 19
Indiana Legislative Council Memorandum, January 1973	Box 1, Folder 20
"Why a Coalition—And How" and "ERA Speech", League of Women Voters, 1973	Box 1, Folder 21
"Wives Legal Rights", Pamphlet, 1973; "The Virginia Slims American Women's Opinion Poll", 1974; "You and the Law", Pamphlet, 1976	Box 1, Folder 22
National Consumer Finance Association, Income Gap Publications, 1973–1976	Box 1, Folder 23
Educational Association Memos, 1973–1976	Box 1, Folder 24
ERA Indiana, By-laws, Minutes, and Communications, 1973–1976; ERA Indiana Luncheon Program, 1977	Box 1, Folder 25
Women in Communications Inc., Equal Rights Amendment Educational Package, 1974	Box 2, Folder 1
"Spotlight on the Equal Rights Amendment", The Hoosier Business Woman, November 1974	Box 2, Folder 2

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, ERA/Women's Rights Publications, ca. 1974	Box 2, Folder 3
Hoosiers for the Equal Rights Amendment (HERA), Documents, Talking Points, and New Releases, 1974– 1975	Box 2, Folder 4
ERA Central Newsletter, March 1975	Box 2, Folder 5
"Hearings–Not Hearsay", Report by the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and the Indianapolis Advisory Council, 1975	Box 2, Folder 6
National Women's Political Caucus, Quarterly Report, 1975 and 1977; NWPC Brochure, 1976	Box 2, Folder 7
99th General Assembly, Lobbyist List and Seating Arrangement Brochure, 1975–1976	Box 2, Folder 8
Greater Indianapolis Women's Political Caucus, W:M News, Newsletter, 1975–1977	Box 2, Folder 9
International Women's Year, Indiana State Meeting Materials, 1977	Box 2, Folder 10
<i>The Role of Women on Indiana Newspapers (And in Other Media): 1876–1976</i> , Women's Press Club of Indiana, 1977	BV 5378
Indianapolis Women's Clubs Directory, 1977; Women's Political Times, Newspaper, Vol. 8 No. 6, 1983 and Vol. 9 No. 7, 1984	OM 0694: Folder 2

## **Series 2: Dorothy Steinmeier**

### CONTENTS

Indiana Women File, Compiled by Dorothy Steinmeier, ca. 1960s–1990s (1 of 2)

Indiana Women File, Compiled by Dorothy Steinmeier, ca. 1960s–1990s (2 of 2)

Dorothy Steinmeier, Letters and Communications, 1964–1978

Dorothy Steinmeier, ERA Notes and Writings, ca. 1975

Indiana's Women Who Fought for Passage of the ERA, Compiled by Dorothy Steinmeier, 1975–1976

### CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 11

Box 2, Folder 12

Box 2, Folder 13

Box 2, Folder 14

Box 2, Folder 15