LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1920-2003

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Maire Gurevitz
May 2013

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

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 11 manuscript boxes, 1 half size manuscript box, 3 folders photographs, 5 folders color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1920-2003

PROVENANCE: League of Women Voters of Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: 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: 2006.0208; 2006.0402; 2009.0096

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

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Series 1 (Box 1-3) contains meeting minutes and agendas for board meetings of the League of Women Voters of Indiana. There are also minutes and agendas for meetings of local leagues and for organizations that the League of Women Voters of Indiana affiliated with, such as the Indiana Coalition for Human Services or the Gender Fairness Coalition.

Series 2 (Box 3-5) contains documents relating to State Convention, State Council, and Every Member Workshops that were organized by the League of Women Voters of Indiana. There are planning materials, event packets, and minutes of the business that took place at State Convention.

Series 3 (Box 5-9) contains correspondence, publications, and other resources produced by the League of Women Voters of Indiana. This includes issues of *The Indiana Voter* and *Legislative Link* as well as the State Program and State Board reports. There are also correspondence and resources pertaining to local league work on welfare reform and the judicial system.

Series 4 (Box 9-11) contains correspondence, publications, resources, and a market research study concerning school finance and the tax system in the state of Indiana. The documents speak to the work the League of Women Voters of Indiana did to educate the public about school funding and school reorganization in the state.

Series 5 (Box 11-12) contains organizational histories of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, and information on the process of collecting materials to write a history of the league.

Series 6 and 7 contain black and white and color photographs of League events, such as State Convention and the 75th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Indiana.

Folders in each series are arranged chronologically.
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1052).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.