



# Guide to the League of Women Voters of Durham (N.C.) Papers, 1947-1991

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

League of Women Voters of Durham (N.C.) papers, 1947-1991

**Creator:**

League of Women Voters of Durham (Durham, N.C.)

**Extent:**

7.9 Linear Feet

4,300 Items

**Language:**

English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.00827

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1t93z>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], League of Women Voters of Durham (N.C.) Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

The papers of the League of Women Voters of Durham (LWVD) span the dates 1947-1991, with three main clusters of records: the mid-to-late 1950s, the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the late 1970s through the middle of the 1980s. The papers consist chiefly of newsletters, minutes of the Board and other meetings, administrative and financial records, publicity materials, newspaper clippings, and information related to the political work of the League. Most of the papers address the work of the Durham League, which was founded in 1946 and ceased operations in 1991. Scattered records document the activities of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC).

The League is best known as a non-partisan organization sponsoring voter registration and candidates' forums, and those activities are well-documented here. In addition, League members held meetings to discuss a broad range of other social and political issues, and from those debates formulated positions which the chapter lobbied for in the media and through various political channels. The issues discussed in depth and documented in the collection include school desegregation; the merger of the Durham city and county school systems; local bond issues; the Equal Rights Amendment; foreign trade; diplomatic relations between the United States and China; water and air quality; solid and toxic waste; and reproductive rights. The papers include some correspondence with local, state, and federal officials regarding these and other issues; however, correspondence in general comprises a small portion of the collection.

The papers document the League activities of various Durham women who became prominent in local and state politics. The papers also provide a window into racial politics in Durham, in particular through debates over school desegregation and the proposed merger of the city and county school systems. Voter registration materials and correspondence also shed light on this subject, including a few letters the League received condemning its attempts to register supposedly uneducated African Americans.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Use Restrictions**

copyright interests in the papers of the League of Women Voters of Durham (N.C.) have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information,

see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The bulk of the papers of the League of Women Voters of Durham (N.C.) was acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Duke University as a gift from the League after ceasing operations in 1991. This donation followed the gift of a small collection of League papers from Dr. I.B. Holley of the Duke University History Department in 1975.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by: Ian K. Lekus

Completed February 2, 1997

Encoded by Stephen D. Miller

The League papers included several scrapbooks, primarily consisting of newspaper clippings. Those clippings have been photocopied and are housed in the Scrapbook section of the Clippings Series. For that section, care should be taken by researchers to maintain the order of the clippings in those folders, which maintain the original order of scrapbook pages.

Board minutes, bulletins, financial records (particularly monthly treasurer's reports in the 1970s and 1980s), issue briefings and other papers were sometimes stapled together and sometimes kept unstapled in looseleaf binders before coming to the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Researchers unable to find financial records, political materials, or other papers for a given date are advised to check the Board minutes and bulletins for that date, where they may be housed.

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Schools -- North Carolina -- Durham County
- Segregation in education -- North Carolina
- Equal rights amendments -- North Carolina
- Environmental protection -- North Carolina -- Durham County
- Women in politics -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Elections -- North Carolina
- Durham (N.C.) -- Politics and government

- Politics -- North Carolina -- Durham
- League of Women Voters (U.S.)
- League of Women Voters of Durham (Durham, N.C.) -- History

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## Collection Inventory

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### Bulletins and Newsletters Series, 1951-1991

#### Scope and Contents note

Chiefly the bulletins of the LWVD. Also includes scattered newsletters published by the LWNVC and materials relating to publishing the Durham bulletin.

#### Durham, 1953-1991

**Physical Description:** 15 folders

Box 1

#### North Carolina:

The Tarheel Voter, 1951-1974 Box 1

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

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The North Carolina Voter, 1984 Box 1

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Assembly Assignment, 1969-1973 Box 1

#### General, 1975-1982

Box 1

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### Office Series, 1952-1991

#### Scope and Contents note

General records pertaining to the operations of the League of Women Voters.

The administrative subseries includes annual reports, minutes of annual meetings, minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership, a list of presidents of the League, membership and officer records, bylaws and procedures, general League information, and other non-financial business records. The subseries also includes a scrapbook League members made to commemorate its victory in a local Ugly Office contest, as well as scattered papers of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

The financial subseries includes monthly treasurer's reports of League income and expenditures, annual financial reports and audits, notes and reports of the Finance and Budget Committees, records of League finance drives, ledgers, and scattered other paperwork documenting the financial affairs of the League.

The personal subseries consists of clippings, speeches, correspondence, press releases, and other materials spotlighting the activities of individual League members.

The photographs subseries consists of reprints of photographs of League members and events. Some photographs were taken by League members, while others are reprints of photographs originally appearing in Durham newspapers.

The publicity subseries includes meeting notes, pamphlets, speeches, and other materials publicizing the LWVD. For materials documenting work publicizing voter registration and other League activities, see the Political Series: Publicity Subseries.

**Administrative: Board minutes, 1954-1969**

**Physical Description:** 7 folders

Box 1

**Administrative:**

Box 2

Board minutes, 1970-1990	Box 2
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**Physical Description:** 10 folders

Annual meetings and reports, 1954-1990	Box 2
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**Physical Description:** 3 folders

Annual meetings: Photographs, 1986	Box 2
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Annual reports filed with LWVUS, 1968-1987	Box 2
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Board policies and guidelines, 1966-1981	Box 2
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Bylaws, 1952-1987	Box 2
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Calendars, 1973-1982	Box 2
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Copyrights, 1976-1977	Box 2
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Correspondence, 1964-1974	Box 2
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Evaluation, 1977	Box 2
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General meeting minutes, 1954-1971	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
History: Presidents' list, 1982	Box 2
LWVD:	
General information, 1940s-1980s	Box 2
Policies, 1980-1981	Box 2
League of Women Voters of North Carolina, 1965-1991	Box 2
Meetings: Miscellaneous, 1963-1991	Box 2
Membership:	
Officers, 1954-1991	Box 2
Board program and calendar information, 1967-1978	Box 2
Lists, 1953-1991	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Information forms, 1985-1988	Box 2
General, undated	Box 2
Miscellaneous, 1954	Box 2
State convention speeches, 1973, 1985	Box 2
Ugly Office Contest scrapbook, 1980-1981	Box 2

**Financial: (See processing note)**

Box 3

Annual report, 1956-1957	Box 3
Audits, 1967-1976	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Budget Committee notes, 1978-1982	Box 3
Correspondence, 1958-1959	Box 3
Education Fund, 1972-1989	Box 3

Finance Committee report, 1957, 1977 <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box 3
Finance Committee notes and reports, 1987-1988	Box 3
Finance Drive, 1968-1991, undated <b>Physical Description:</b> 11 folders	Box 3
Ledger, 1979-1983 (See also Oversize Material) <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	Box 3
LWV visa card: Memos and reports, 1989-1990	Box 3
LWVNC memoranda, 1980-1982	Box 3
Per-member payment policies and records, 1979-1991	Box 3
Task forces on toxic waste, 1979-1981	Box 3
Treasurer's reports: Budgets, 1954-1991(17)	Box 3
Memoranda, 1981-1989	Box 3
<b>Personal:</b>	
Bell, Marilyn Bryant, 1984	Box 3
Bradley, Gail, 1972-1982	Box 3
Grant, Elizabeth, 1983	Box 3
Meyer, Ruth Mary, 1979	Box 3
McCreary, Margaret Jane, 1984	Box 3
Ohlson, Grace, 1983	Box 3
<b>Photographs:</b>	
Durham Street Arts Celebration: Voter registration booth, 1982-1983	Box 3
Eno River Festival registration, undated	Box 3

Luncheon, undated	Box 3
Meeting of old and new board members: 1620 University Dr., 1983, Apr. 21	Box 3
Newspaper photographs, 1954-1984, undated	Box 3
<b>Publicity:</b>	
50th Anniversary LWVD profile, 1969	Box 3
Membership recruitment, 1977-1990	Box 3
Pamphlets, 1967-1990, undated	Box 3
Planning and reports, 1957-1983	Box 3
Press releases, 1967-1968	Box 3
Speeches about LWVD, 1975-1982, undated	Box 3

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## **Political Series, 1947-1991**

### **Scope and Contents note**

The series consists of briefings and reports, correspondence, clippings, memoranda, position statements, planning notes, publicity materials advertising community forums sponsored by the League, and other papers documenting local, state, national, and international issues which the League took up for debate. The League maintained a strict policy of non-partisanship in local elections, and regularly sponsored candidates' forums and solicited candidates' answers to questions of local importance, answers reprinted in the Durham newspapers. However, the League's non-partisanship did not prevent it from taking stands on various issues (as distinct from backing candidates). Once League members reached consensus on an issue through extended study and debate, they frequently took vocal stands in support of their positions, including support for school desegregation in compliance with *Brown v. Board of Education*, free speech rights, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and legislation protecting the environment.

The series is organized into subseries according to the LWVNC program: Human Resources (education, the ERA, housing, social services), Natural Resources (planning and protection of air, land, and water resources), Government (procedural matters in government), Voters Services (registration,

candidate questionnaires and forums, precinct reporting), and General (primarily local and international issues not fitting into the state program).

**Scope and Contents note**

The correspondence subseries consists of scattered letters documenting issues not covered in the above subseries.

The publicity subseries includes press releases and other materials pertaining to radio, television, and newspaper coverage of League activities.

**Human Resources:**

Box 4

Education:

Competency test, 1978-1979 Box 4

Drop-out Prevention programs, 1977 Box 4

Durham School System merger, 1950s-1990  
(online item available) Box 4

**Physical Description:** 4 folders

**Digital Object:** [Durham School System merger, 1950s](#)

**Digital Object:** [Durham School System merger, 1969-76, 1989-90; Folder 1 of 3](#)

**Digital Object:** [Durham School System merger, 1969-76, 1989-90; Folder 2 of 3](#)

**Digital Object:** [Durham School System merger, 1969-76, 1989-90; Folder 3 of 3](#)

Financing, bond issues, budgets, 1964-1982,  
undated Box 4

General, 1953-1987, undated Box 4

**Physical Description:** 4 folders

North Carolina education system reports,  
1967-1968 Box 4

Publications, 1967-1978 Box 4

Reading, 1975-1978 Box 4

Textbooks, 1974 Box 4

Equal Rights Amendment, 1973-1982 Box 4

General, 1966-1975	Box 4
Health Care, 1967	Box 4
Housing: Durham study, 1971	Box 4
International Women's Year, 1975-1977	Box 4
Title XX (Social Services), 1975-1976	Box 4

### **Natural Resources:**

Acid Rain Foundation, 1981-1982	Box 4
Clean Air legislation, 1976-1984	Box 4
Durham Quality of Life Survey, 1974	Box 4
Energy, 1977-1979	Box 4
General, 1981	Box 4
Land Use: Policy and planning, 1971-1985, undated	Box 4
Solid Waste: Bottle Bill, 1973-1977	Box 4
Solid Waste Management, 1983	Box 4
Toxic Waste: Task Forces on Toxic Waste, 1979-1982	Box 4
Utility companies, 1979-1985, undated	Box 4
Water and Sewer Facilities, 1963-1974	Box 4
Water Quality: Region 208 Project, 1976-1978	Box 4
Water quality, waste and sewage, 1981-1984	Box 4
Water resources, 1959	Box 4
Watershed protection, 1984-1990	Box 4

### **Government:**

Gubernatorial veto, 1990	Box 4
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Gubernatorial succession, 1977	Box 4
Reproductive Rights: Concurrence, 1982	Box 4

### Voters Services:

Box 5

Candidates forums, 1964-1990	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Candidate questionnaires, 1952-1989	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Legislative breakfasts, 1975-1989, undated	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Library registration, 1975-1976	Box 5
News releases, 1981-1983	Box 5
Photographs: Parade, 1956	Box 5
Precinct reporting, 1980s	Box 5
President's coffee, 1981-1989	Box 5
Publications, 1966-1980s	Box 5
Registration, 1972-1984, undated	Box 5
Reports, 1957-1982	Box 5
Women's Vote Project, 1984-1985 (See also Oversize Material)	Box 5

### General:

Action Committee: Reports and correspondence, 1980-1985	Box 5
Campaign Finance Reform, 1974	Box 5
Court watchers, undated	Box 5
Durham Bond Campaign, 1990	Box 5
Durham committers, 1960s	Box 5

Durham Library, 1963-1980, undated	Box 5
Durham property values, 1956	Box 5
Durham roads, 1953	Box 5
Foreign trade, 1950s	Box 5
The Government story, 1969-1970	Box 5
"Here is Durham" brochure, 1954-1979	Box 5
League of Women Voters of North Carolina, 1953-1996	Box 5
Meeting announcements: Miscellaneous, 1957-1988, undated	Box 5
Miscellaneous, 1950s	Box 5
Monitor programs, 1977, 1983	Box 5
Panama Canal Treaty, 1978-1979	Box 5
Position statements, 1981-1990	Box 5
<b>Program:</b> 1947-1983	Box 5
Newsletter inserts, 1961-1969	Box 5
Speakers bureau, 1956	Box 5
State tax study, 1968-1985, undated	Box 5
Talent bank, 1979	Box 5
UNICEF program, 1963-1983	Box 5
Valentine, Tim: Interviews, 1983-1985	Box 5
Women's Equality Day, 1990	Box 5

**Correspondence, 1955-1984**

Box 5

**Publicity:**

Television, 1957, undated	Box 5
Radio, 1956-1968, undated	Box 5
Newspaper and press releases, 1953-1962, undated	Box 5
Press releases, 1967-1968	Box 5
Press releases and related information, 1970-1972	Box 5
Voter information, 1977-1979	Box 5
Voter registration, 1971-1972	Box 5

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## **Clippings Series, 1953-1991**

### **Scope and Contents note**

The series consists of photocopies made from League scrapbooks and from loose newspaper clippings collected by League members. Most of the clippings are of articles appearing in the Durham Morning Herald and the Durham Sun.

### **Scrapbook, 1954-1973**

**Physical Description:** 7 folders

Box 6

### **1953-1991**

**Physical Description:** 7 folders

Box 6

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## **Oversize Material**

### **Office Series: Financial: Ledger: Cash: misc., 1977-78 - 1981-82**

Oversize-box 132

### **Office Series: Financial: Ledger: Cash Disbursements, 1982-83 - 1986-87**

Oversize-box 132

### **Office Series: Financial: Ledger: Cash Receipts, 1982-83 - 1986-87**

Oversize-box 132

**Political Series: Women's Vote Project, 1984**

Oversize-box 132

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