S0051 Woods, Harriett F. (1927- )
Papers, 1964-1980
199 Folders

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Related Collections:

The papers of Harriett Woods, Missouri State Senator, journalist, television producer, and civic leader, were given to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Senator Woods over a period of years from 1977-1980.

Harriett F. Woods was elected from the 13th District of Missouri in St. Louis County to the Missouri State Senate in November, 1976, and reelected for a second term in November, 1980. Senator Woods, a Democrat, is the second women in Missouri history to be elected to this legislative body. Before her election, Senator Woods was an independent film producer and served ten years as the Public Affairs Director at KPLR-TV, St. Louis. At KPLR, she produced many noted documentaries, among them, the award winning film on child abuse, "Broken Children;" "Don't Go To Jail in Missouri;" "Piedmont UFO;" and "A St. Louis Masterpiece - The Cathedral Mosaics." She was a reporter for the Chicago Herald - American and the St. Louis Globe Democrat as well as a contributing editor of Focus - Midwest magazine. From 1967-1974 she served on the University City Council and resigned that post in 1974 to accept an appointment by Governor Christopher S. Bond to the Missouri State Transportation Commission. Her leadership in local government was recognized by her election to the Boards of Directors of the St. Louis County Municipal League, The Missouri Municipal League, and the National League of Cities.

As a senator, Woods' legislative concerns centered on urban affairs, the problems of the elderly, and education. As a freshman senator, she sponsored the Equal Rights Amendment which was defeated (22 - 12) in March, 1977. She played a prominent role in the drafting and passage of the Nursing Home Bill of 1979. Senator Woods' committee assignments reflect her major concerns: Appointment, Election, & Military, and Veterans Affairs; Budget Control; Constitutional Amendments and Reorganization; Education Committee (Vice-Chairman, 1977); Local Government; Public Health, Welfare, Consumer Protection and Environment; State Health Care Committee (Chair, 1978); Ways and Means

SCOPE AND CONTENT
The Harriett F. Woods Papers, document her first term as Missouri Senator (1977-1980), her
State Senatorial Campaign (1976), and writings from her career as a journalist and film producer. There is almost no information on her career as a member of the University City Council. The bulk of the material is correspondence relating to legislative issues between 1977 - 1980.

The collection consists of correspondence, pressure mail, Senate committee reports, senate bills, transcripts of committee hearings, newsletters to the Senator's constituents, television documentary scripts, including "Broken Children" and "A St. Louis Masterpiece - The Cathedral Mosaics," published articles, campaign brochures and flyers, press releases, newspaper clippings, and photographs. The papers have been arranged into six series: Legislative files, State Senatorial Campaigns, Publications, Pre - Legislature career, Newsclippings, and Photos.

Correspondence from constituents to Senator Woods have been filed chronologically according to issue. When available, Senator Wood's response the constituent is filed immediately after. Issues receiving the most correspondence were the Equal Rights Amendment, The Nursing Home Bill, education related bills, and the Meramec Dam Referendum.

The Nursing Home Bill material, which constitutes the single largest area of the collection, includes: correspondence from constituents expressing their interest in the care of the elderly, Senator Woods' working papers of the bill, transcripts of Senate State Health Care Committee's Interim Hearing on Nursing Homes, graphic reports concerning conditions of boarding homes in Missouri, testimony of Missourians reflecting unsatisfactory experiences with nursing homes, the final version of the Nursing Home Bill, and numerous letters of congratulations to Senator Woods when the bill was passed June, 1979. Newspaper clippings from the period May, 1979 - August, 1979, relating to the Nursing Home Bill have been discarded. A list of the newspapers from which the articles were taken is attached. (see attachment A)

Correspondence from constituents requesting Senator Woods' assistance in personal matters have been discarded and a listing made of the nature of these requests. (see attachment B)

Publications included with Senator Woods' official state papers, such as annual reports from Missouri State Divisions, have been discarded.

This collection is related to collections S0490 and S0652.

SERIES DESCRIPTION
SERIES 1: Legislative Files, 1977-1980. 187 folders
Arranged by subject alphabetically. Legislative issues dealt with include: abortion, blue law, death penalty, education, Equal Rights Amendment, insurance, Meramec Dam, nursing homes, public health, and taxes. Correspondence, reports, Senate bills, fact sheets, press releases and newsclippings.

SERIES 2: State Senatorial Campaign, 1976-1980, 2 folders
Arranged Chronologically. Press releases, brochures, flyers, instructions for volunteer campaign workers, hand - outs, endorsement cards, maps, bumper sticker, precinct results,
13th State Senatorial District polling places.


SERIES 4: Pre - Legislative Career, 1964-1975 4 folders
Arranged alphabetically. Articles, television documentary scripts, newsletter, program.

SERIES 5: Newsclippings, 1976-1977, 1 folder
Arranged alphabetically. Profiles of Harriett Woods, and campaign for Missouri Senate.

SERIES 6: Photographs, 1972-1976, 1 folder
Photographs of Harriett Woods at work as TV producer, and Missouri Senate Campaign photograph.

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4. Administrative Rules, Joint Committee on, 1978
5. Adult Abuse, 1977-1979
6. Agriculture, 1977-1979
7. Animals, Humane Treatment of, 1979
8. Appointment, Senate Committee of, 1977
10. Blue Law, 1977
11. Blue Law, 1977
12. Bridgeton, Missouri
13. Child Abuse, 1977
14. Circuitbreaker Law, 1977
15. Conflict of Interest Bill No. 535, 1977
17. Correspondence, 1/77-2/77
18. Correspondence, 3/77
19. Correspondence, 4/77-5/77
20. Correspondence, 6/77-7/77
21. Correspondence, 8/77-10/77
22. Correspondence, 11/77-12/77
23. Correspondence, 1/78
24. Correspondence, 2/78
25. Correspondence, 1979-1980
27. Correspondence, Letters of Recommendation, 1977-1979
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31. Education, Correspondence, 1976-1977
32. Education, Correspondence, 1977-1980
33. Education, Deaf Children, 1977
34. Education, Exceptional Child, 1977
35. Education, Foundation Formula, 1977
36. Education, Foundation Formula, 1977
37. Education, Missouri Student Grant Program, 1977
38. Education, Non-Teacher Retirement, 1977
39. Education, Omnibus Bill, 1977
40. Education, Sheltered Workshops, 1977
41. Education, Teacher Retirement, 1977
42. Education, Teacher Retirement, 1977
43. Education, Teacher Retirement, 1977
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46. Education, Teacher Retirement, 1977
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49. Education, Teachers, 1979
50. Education, Tuition Deduction, 1977
51. Education, University of Missouri, 1978-1979

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53. Elections, Presidential Primary Bill, 1977
55. Environment, Coalition for, 1977, 1979
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58. Equal Rights Amendment (con - correspondence), 3/77-7/77
59. Equal Rights Amendment (pro - correspondence), 1/77
60. Equal Rights Amendment (pro - correspondence), 2/77
61. Equal Rights Amendment (pro - correspondence), 2/77
62. Equal Rights Amendment (pro - correspondence), 3/77
63. Equal Rights Amendment (pro - correspondence), 4/77-12/77
64. Federal Issues, 1978-1979
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66. Flextime, 1977
67. Gasohol, 1979
68. Generic Drug Formula, 1978-1979
69. Good Samaritan Bill, 1979
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75. Insurance, Product Liability, 1977-1978
76. Insurance, Redlining, 1977
77. Labor, 1977
78. License Plates for Disabled Veterans, 1977
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80. Lottery, Gambling, 1977
81. "M" General
82. Mental Health, 1977
83. Mental Retardation, 1977
84. Mental Retardation, 1977
85. Meramec Dam, Con, 1977
86. Meramec Dam, Pro, 1977
87. Meramec Dam, Pro, 1977
88. Meramec Dam, Pro, 1977
89. Monsanto, 1977-1978
90. "N" General, 1980
92. Natural Resources, Department of, 1979
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122. Nursing Homes, Correspondence, Lobby Effort, 3/10/79-3/31/79
123. Nursing Homes, Correspondence, Lobby Effort, 4/79-6/79
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186. Workmen's Compensation, 1980

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