In 1969, the Missouri ERA Coalition was founded as an umbrella group to coordinate the efforts of organizations supporting the ERA. These groups included the League of Women Voters, the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Missouri Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus, the National Organization for Women, and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The Coalition focused its efforts on lobbying in Jefferson City. The steering committee appointed statewide and regional coordinators to lobby and carry out the functions of the coalition as established by the executive and steering committees and to coordinate the lobbying plans of other organizations. The Coalition organized rallies in Jefferson City, wrote letters to legislators, helped in the formation of outstate coalitions, and sought endorsements from other organizations.

In 1973, Governor Bond, a strong supporter of the ERA, helped launch a ratification campaign. A House sub-committee headed by DeVerne Calloway held public hearings on sex discrimination in eight Missouri counties. The Senate Judiciary Committee in 1973 voted not to send the amendment to the Senate floor. Due to efforts of the Missouri ERA Coalition and Governor Bond, however, the Missouri House of Representatives passed the ERA in 1975. The amendment was defeated again in the Senate that year and suffered defeat each time it came up for a vote for the next nine years.

The Coalition monitored individual legislators and began organizing in those districts whose senators voted against ERA. In 1975 the Coalition formed the Missouri Citizens for Constitutional Democracy, a political action committee. The MCCD provided financial support to pro-ERA candidates for the Missouri state legislature, especially those in five districts with anti-ERA senators.

In 1976 the Coalition focused its attention primarily on fundraising activities such as "Give A Day's Pay For The ERA," wine and cheese parties, and dinner parties. One fundraising event featured actor Alan Alda. The Coalition also established "Shadow Senators" in every district to monitor the elections of the Missouri Senate.

The Coalition began developing grass roots support across the state in 1977, and for the first time it initiated a membership fee to help raise money for its activities. The Coalition enlisted
the support of business and labor groups such as the Temasters Joint Council 13, the Communications Workers of America, the UAW, and the Missouri State Labor Council. These groups helped with fundraising and lobbying in Jefferson City, as well as organizing and educating their own rank and file members about ERA.

Lobbying activities included house parties, letter writing and persuasion campaigns, local fundraisers, phone banks, and canvassing. The "Show Me Equality Caravan," modeled after a successful campaign in Indiana, toured every county in Missouri, held public meetings, and provided educational materials and assistance to out-state coalitions. The phone banks increased membership, kept existing members active and rallied support of individuals and organizations. Despite such efforts, the Senate voted against the amendment by a 22 to 12 margin in 1977.

In 1978, the Missouri ERA Coalition worked with the United Labor Policy Committee, comprised of affiliates from the AFL-CIO, UAW, and the Teamsters, to develop a joint strategy for the next legislative session. It also joined the Coalition of Labor Union Women in November 1978 as co-sponsor of an "Anti- Right To Work'- ERA Rally" prior to the defeat of the proposed "Right To Work" referendum to the Missouri Constitution.

Former Women's Political Caucus lobbyist, Pam Rich, became the Coalition's Jefferson City lobbyist in 1979. She concentrated on those legislators who might be persuaded to change their "no" votes. Coalitions such as the League of Women Voters, and the Missouri Women's Political Caucus began to gather lists of people who might influence legislators to vote for the ERA. Also in 1979, the Teamster Joint Council 13 offered the Coalition free office space at the Teamster Council Plaza.

The 1980 election provided the last opportunity for electoral changes in the Missouri legislature before the 1982 deadline for ERA ratification. The Coalition failed in its efforts to remove incumbents who voted against the ERA in the Missouri Senate. In 1980 sponsors of the ERA struck the amendment from the senate calendar because there were not enough supporters in the legislature.

In 1982, the Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee failed to achieve the majority vote needed to pass a ratification resolution, thus prohibiting the amendment from ever getting to the senate floor for debate. Harriett Woods, the only woman in the Missouri Senate, said to the committee, "a body dominated by men should not deny a vote on this issue, which is so significant to both men and women." The Coalition disbanded in June 1982 when the time limit for ratification was not extended. The amendment was never ratified in Missouri and fell three states shy of the necessary thirty eight to become an amendment to the United States Constitution.

Presidents of the Missouri ERA Coalition included Barbara Harrison (1973-1974); Rosemary Smithson (1975-1976); Doris Quinn (1977-1978); Mary Ann Sedey (1978-1979); and Mary Lou Anderson (1979-1982).

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Missouri ERA Coalition Records, 1972-1982, document the Coalition's efforts to get the
ERA ratified in the Missouri Senate. The collection contains budgets, bylaws, campaign strategies, correspondence, funding requests, local fundraising material, meeting minutes, literature from workshops and rallies, conference notices, newsletters, newsclippings, and papers.

The bulk of the collection documents the Coalition's development of grass roots support from 1977-1982, in particular, canvassing activities (caravan, phone bank and house party kits, letter writing and lobbying instructions). The collection also includes political profiles of Missouri Senators opposed to the ERA, public opinion polls on the amendment and House and Senate voting records. The records also reflect the efforts of the UAW, the Teamster Joint Council 13, the Missouri State Labor Council in assisting the work of the Coalition and the Coalition's contribution to defeat the state-wide "Right To Work" amendment.

There are two folders containing testimony on the statewide sex-discrimination hearings.


SERIES DESCRIPTION


SERIES 2 - FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING, 1974-1981, FOLDERS 23-40


SERIES 3 - ACTIVITIES, 1972-1982, FOLDERS 41-69

Divided into 4 subseries, arranged alphabetically within each series. 1) Publicity Strategies, 1976-1979, folders 41-42. Contains proposals for campaign strategies to ratify ERA and requests for proposals; 2) Canvassing, 1976-1980, folders 43-49. Contains caravan, house party, and phone bank and instructions, correspondence, flyers, petitions, and public opinion polls (statewide and senate districts 1 and 8); 3) Legislative, 1972-1981, folders 50-65. Contains Adult Abuse Remedies Bill, memos, newsclippings, newsletters, statements,
extension of deadline correspondence, Missouri House hearings on ERA, and 1973 sex
discrimination hearings testimony and correspondence, Missouri Legislature voting results,
Missouri Senate profiles, correspondence from Pam Rich, lobbyist in Jefferson City; 4)
Conferences, Rallies, Visits, 1978-1981, folders 66-69. Contains People of Color Conference,
and Women of Color Conference flyers, programs, newscclippings, list of participants;
miscellaneous flyers on rallies and workshops and planning meetings; Judy Carter visit, press
releases, programs, itinerary, newscclippings.

SERIES 4 - SUPPORT GROUPS, 1972-1982, FOLDERS 70-92
Contains flyers, newscclippings, memos, correspondence, newsletters, and canvassing
materials, of groups involved in the Coalition, and groups endorsing the ERA, such as the St.
Louis Men's Project and various women's groups including the UMSL Women's Center and
the New Woman's Workshop. Contains Attorney General Ashcroft's suit against the National
Organization For Women (NOW), for boycotting unratified states.

SERIES 5 - MEDIA, PAPERS, PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, 1972-1982
FOLDERS 93-111
Divided into five subseries: 1) Media, 1972-1982, folders 93-100. Contains editorials for
radio and tv, correspondence, an ERA media campaign packet, the campaign against KMOX
Radio correspondence, and anti-ERA broadcasts, newscclippings from the Post Dispatch,
Globe-Democrat and statewide papers covering the years of the coalition's existence; 2)
Papers, 1974-1979, folders 101-104. Contains essays about ERA, Phyllis Schafly, and the
Women's Movement in the United States; the position papers of the coalition; and the
publications, papers, and correspondence of the University of Missouri-Columbia Professor
of Law, Joan M. Krauskopf; 3) Publications, 1974-1982, folders 105-110. Contains anti-ERA
literature and correspondence; the Missouri ERA Coalition Handbook; the Coalition's
newsletters from 1984 to 1982; the St. Louis Coalition's Newsletter and miscellaneous
newsletters from 1977-1979; 4) Speeches, n.d., folder 111. Contains the speech, "ERA In
Perspective" by Mary Lou Anderson, president of the Coalition from 1979-1982. Arranged
alphabetically according to subject.

SERIES 6 - ARTIFACTS, 1975-1982, FOLDER 112
Contains bumper stickers, buttons, decals, pennants, and posters of the Missouri ERA
Coalition.

SERIES 7 - PHOTOGRAPHS, 1976-1981, 437.1-437.34
Contains photographs of Alan Alda's visit to St. Louis in 1976 for a fundraising dinner; Judy
Carter's visit in 1978; the St. Charles Coalition at a rally in Jefferson City in 1978; and author
Jane O'Reilly, who was part of a fundraiser in St. Louis in 1981. Arranged chronologically.

SERIES 8 - FILMSTRIP AND TAPE; SLIDES, 1977, 8298-8335
Contains "What's All This About An ERA?" The filmstrip (V-46) and tape included in the
House Party Kit, also contains slides for House Party Presentations.
FOLDER LIST

BOX 1 (041536)
FOLDERS 1-49

SERIES I - ADMINISTRATIVE, 1973-1981

BYLAWS, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND MEMBERSHIP LISTS, 1973-1982

5. Mailing Lists, 1975-1978
10. Steering Committee Minutes and Agendas, Oct. 1974 - May 1977
12. ERA Coalition and Committee Reports, Sept. 1974 - Sept. 1980

CORRESPONDENCE, 1976-1986, FOLDERS 13-22

16. General Correspondence, 1974-1981
17. Out-State Coalitions (from), Sept. 1977 - Mar. 1979
18. Out-State Coalitions (to), Oct. 1977
22. Student Intern Requests, School Contacts, Apr. 21, 1979 - May 1980

SERIES 2 - FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCES, FOLDERS 23-26


MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, FOLDERS 27-29

29. Volunteer Phone Bank instructions to recruit members - 1979

FUNDRAISING EVENTS, FOLDERS 30-40

30. Flyers and Programs, 1973-1977
32. Susan B. Anthony B-Day and Coin Issuance Celebrations - Agendas, Programs, Newsclippings, Statements, 1974 -1981
33. Bake Sales, Nov. - Dec. 1977
35. Coalition Dinners, 1979
37. Miscellaneous Fundraisers, 1978
38. General Correspondence, Memos, 1978-1980
39. Fundraisers, Correspondence, Flyers, Women's Yellow Pages, News Releases, 1979-1982

SERIES 3 - ACTIVITIES

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41. ERA Ratification Campaign Strategies, 1976-1978
42. ERA Ratification Campaign Strategies, 1979

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44. Caravan - Correspondence, Jun. - Dec. 1977
45. Petition Forms, 1976-1977
46. House Party Kit, 1977
47. Phone Bank and Canvassing, Telephone Instruction Sheet and Guidelines; Scripts, 1972-1982
48. Phone Bank and Canvassing for Senate Districts 1, 3 and 22 - Correspondence, Flyers, Instructions, 1978-1979

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50. Adult Abuse Remedies Bill (S.B. 335), 1978-1980
53. Letter Writing Campaign - Correspondence, Memos, 1974-1982
54. Letter Writing Campaign, 1973-1983
58. Missouri Legislature Voting Results on ERA, 1974-1980
59. Missouri Senate Profiles (Dennis, Bild, Dirck, Scott Gannon, Frappier, Dinger), Correspondence, Newsclippings, Profiles, 1975-1980
60. Missouri State-Wide Sex Discrimination Hearings Testimony, News Releases, Correspondence, Oct. 1972- Nov. 1973
64. Speaker's Bureau - Correspondence, Dec. 1977 - Mar. 1978

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66. Grand Rally, April 30, 1978

69. Rallies Workshops, Meetings, 1972-1982

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71. Endorsements, 1972-1982
72. Homemakers for the ERA, Correspondence, State Meeting Minutes, Newsletters, Newsclipping, 1978-1982
73. Labor - Correspondence, ERA Task Force Members, Posters, Flyers, Newsclippings, 1978-1980
74. Labor Correspondence, 1978-1982
75. League of Women Voters Correspondence, Surveys, Memos, 1972-1981

76. Men's Groups Correspondence, Flyers, Memos, Workshops, 1977-1979

77. Missouri Citizens for Constitutional Democracy - Bylaws, Correspondence, Flyers, Memos, 1976-1981
78. Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women - Correspondence, 1977-1981
79. Missourians for the ERA - Membership List, Activities Outline, Draft, 1976
80. Missouri Men for ERA - Correspondence, Membership List, 1975-1981
82. Missouri Women's Political Caucus - Correspondence, News Releases, Newsletter, 1972-
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83. Missouri Women's Political Caucus - Correspondence, News Releases, Newsletter, 1972-1980

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84. Missouri Women's Political Caucus - Candidate Questionnaires, 1978
85. National Organization for Women, Missouri Chapter - Correspondence, Flyers, Meeting Notices, Newsletters, 1976-1978
86. National Organization for Women, Missouri Chapter Boycott - Attorney General Ashcroft's suit against NOW, Correspondence, Newscippings, 1978-1979
87. The New Woman's Workshop - Newsletter, Calendar, 1978-1979
88. Religious - Correspondence, Memos, Newsletter, Paper on Christian Feminists, Biblical and Theological Perspectives on ERA, 1974-1982
89. St. Louis Men's Project Newsletter, Nov. 1978 - Feb. 1979
90. St. Louis Region of Federally Employed Women - Correspondence, 1977-1978
91. Women's Groups - Membership Lists; Sisterhood Roster; Soroptimists; Women Lawyers' Association; Women's Information Network, 1977-1981
92. Women's Groups - Correspondence, Flyers, Newsletters, Resource Listing, 1977-1979

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93. ERA Media Campaign Packet, nd.
94. Letters to the Editor, 1973-1981
95. Media Fairness Doctrine, and Campaign Against KMOX Radio - Correspondence, Lists, Newscippings, 1977-1981
99. TV and Radio Producers - Correspondence, 1977-1981
100. TV and Radio Editorials - 1972-1982

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101. Essays on the ERA, nd.
103. Missouri ERA Coalition Position Papers, 1974-1976

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105. Anti-ERA Correspondence, Brochures, Newsletter, 1977
106. Literature Requests, Correspondence, 1978-1979
108. Missouri ERA Coalition Newsletters, 1974-1982
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111. "ERA TV Perspective," by Mary Lou Anderson, nd.

SERIES 6 - ARTIFACTS

112. Bumper Stickers, Buttons, Decals, Penants, Posters, 1975-1982

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