

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2011.25

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society

229 Washington Street

Wellesley, MA 02481

(781) 235-6690

www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Collection

Date

1958-1990

Extent

0.5 linear feet, 1 document box

Name of Creator

League of Women Voters of Wellesley

Biographical Note

Founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the suffrage movement, the League of Women Voters is a national political organization that operates throughout the 50 states, Washington D.C., the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong. While they are political, their efforts are a non-partisan effort to improve government and engage all Americans in the political process; their core missions are education and advocacy. While they are a national organization, their success stems from the myriad regional and local grassroots efforts within individual communities.

The 1958 Wellesley handbook notes that the “League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through active and informed participation in government. It does not endorse candidates, but it may support legislative measures which seem, after study, to be in the best public interest.”

The League of Women Voters of Wellesley handbooks were comprehensive guides to the town, noting that using them “as a guide, resident and student will gain a comprehensive background of the structure, operation, and services of Wellesley’s government.” Introductory materials also assert that “the ultimate effectiveness of this government depends upon the individual responsibility of each one of us as citizens” (*Wellesley – Your Town*, League of Women Voters handbook, 1964).

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The League of Women Voters of Wellesley is currently an active local organization; most of their education and outreach publicity now takes place on the internet, with handbooks published in online PDF format.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains several editions of the League of Women Voters Wellesley handbook, published over the years in seven editions with various titles. The handbook was first published in 1958; the 1990 edition was the seventh edition. This collection contains the editions from 1958, 1964, 1966, 1976, 1981, and 1990. Only the 1970 guide is missing from the collection.

The handbooks contain Wellesley “facts and figures,” history, and anecdotes, including comprehensive guides to the operation and structure of Wellesley town government, as well as information on public schools, parks, community groups and services, and the overall town environment.

Some of the guides contain petitions, maps, or voter’s primers, either as part of the publication, or as inserts.

Library of Congress Index Terms

Elections
Handbooks, manuals, etc
League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Politics, Practical
Political participation
Political participation—United States—Handbooks, manuals, etc
Representative government and representation
Voting
Wellesley (Mass.)

System of Arrangement

This collection contains only one series.

Conditions Governing Access

The Collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

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Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jean Childs, August 9, 2011. Part of accession 2011.25, from which many materials were deaccessioned in 2017 to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, at Harvard University.

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to this collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Related Repository Collections

Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. The Schlesinger holds many records of various Massachusetts and national League of Women Voters materials. URL: https://guides.library.harvard.edu/schlesinger_finding_aids

Description

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in March 2019 by Taylor C. Kalloch and Alden Ludlow. Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

Bibliography

League of Women Voters of Wellesley. URL: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley>

League of Women Voters, national. URL: <https://www.lwv.org>

League of Women Voters, history. URL: https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history?_ga=2.45918753.40457106.1551370995-784565466.1551370995

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Container List

I. League of Women Voters of Wellesley Publications

Box 1

- Folder 1: *The Wellesley Handbook*, compiled, edited, written, and produced by League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1990
- Folder 2: *Wellesley, Your Town: A Citizen's Handbook of Town Government*, League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1958
- Folder 3: *Wellesley, Your Town: A Citizen's Handbook of Town Government*, League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1964
- Folder 4: *Wellesley, Your Town: A Citizen's Handbook of Town Government*, League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1966
- Folder 5: *The Whole Wellesley Catalog: A Guide to Government and Public and Private Sources in Wellesley*, compiled and edited by League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1976
- Folder 6: *The Whole Wellesley Catalog: A Guide to Government and Public and Private Services in Wellesley*, compiled and edited by League of Women Voters of Wellesley; 1981