

# **League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County Records**

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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## **Summary Information**

**Repository:** M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

**Title:** League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County Records

**ID:** apap103

**Date [inclusive]:** 1914-2008

**Physical Description:** 9.03 cubic ft.

**Physical Location:** The materials are located onsite in the department.

Language of the

Material:

English.

**Abstract:** The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County Records

documents the political and social activities of the chapter since its

founding in 1939.

#### **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County (LWVRC) Records, 1914-2008. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the LWVRC Records).

## **Organizational Sketch**

"Let the people know, make the people care and help the people act" was the motto adopted by the 38 women who founded the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County (LWVRC) in October 1939. The first president of the LWVRC was Beulah Bailey Thull (1891-1975), who was one of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt's speechwriters at the time. In addition to helping establish the Rensselaer County League, Thull helped establish the Women's Legislative Forum and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) (serving as the latter's first president). Thull did not finish out her term with the LWVRC and was replaced by Catherine Benson. Though she was not originally from New York, Benson became an important leader in the early years of the LWVRC and in the New York State suffrage movement. World War I interrupted Benson's plans to become a doctor and instead she enrolled in

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Bellevue Hospital's nurses training course in New York City. By the time she became a nurse, the war ended. She married a doctor who set up a practice in Troy, NY. During the 1940s and 1950s, Benson became the Director of Nurses at Leonard Hospital in Troy.

A month after its founding, the LWVRC drafted a letter to Mr. Raymond T. Neitzel, President of Troy's Chamber of Commerce, stating that "the League has but one purpose - 'Better Government.'" At the time of the LWVRC's founding, the Troy Chamber of Commerce called for a survey of Troy's budget. The LWVRC saw an opportunity for political involvement at the local level and took it. The letter to Neitzel resulted in a luncheon hosted by the LWVRC, whereby the Mayor of Troy "appointed a citizens committee to sit in with him on the preparation of the budget." There were 30 people on the committee including the LWVRC's president. The LWVRC produced a résumé of Troy's budget and of the comparative cost of government in Troy, along with a chart showing the necessary factors of a good budget. "This is the first time that such a thing had ever happened in Troy as the budget was usually a secret chamber act." Thus began the LWVRC's non-partisan involvement in local government.

By 1944, the LWVRC began plans to expand both its membership and scope of activities. It did this by establishing a headquarters and developing committees, including finance, public relations, programming, research, government, foreign relations, and training. In the same year, the LWVRC formed a coalition with the Business and Professional Women's Club, the YWCA, and the Junior League, creating the Women's Joint Education Committee. "Its purpose was to secure an enlarged Board of Education in Troy with one or more women members, with the hope of improving the school system." The committee quickly learned the ins and outs of the politics of education, suggesting areas for change and/or expansion. As a result, the LWVRC found a niche in public education. In December of 1955, *Trojans, Know Your Schools*, was published. It "presented concise, non-partisan information concerning the public schools of the Troy District." As a result of the publication, board of education meetings were opened to the public. *Know Your Schools* involved a survey of the school boards, finances, and teachers. The first decade of the LWVRC was marked a success. The chapter began the *Know Your County* series and had a regular monthly radio program on WTRY.

The LWVRC's activities expanded in the 1950s. Know Your Town became one of the main local projects, surveying county departments and chronicling the county's history for its citizens. The state League published a similar booklet for New York State, entitled Know Your State. Know Your Town was published in 1950 and gained a great deal of accolades (see clippings in Series 1, Box 1, Folder 18). 1950 was also the first year the LWVRC published election guides, which provided information to citizens about candidates and amendments that were up for a vote in upcoming government and school elections. The LWVRC then expanded its scope by speaking out about national and international issues. In 1953, the LWVRC participated in United Nations Day and in 1954 it came out against the Bricker Amendment, which would "define and limit the President's treaty-making powers." The LWVRC believed that such an amendment was "an impediment to the proper conduct of foreign affairs, a disguised isolationist effort to reverse and prevent cooperation in international issues, a violation of the expressed convictions of the framers of the Constitution, and an expression of distrust of both the President and the Senate." On state matters, the LWVRC pressed New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey to pass legislation for permanent personal registration, which, to the organization's dismay, Dewey vetoed in 1955. The latter part of the 1950s saw the League involved in conservation, court reform, county probation, world trade, charter reform, municipal government, equal pay for equal work, improvement of the primary and electoral systems, regulation of child labor laws, urban renewal and the implications of Sputnik. This did not

replace past agenda items like the Troy school budget or permanent personal registration. The LWVRC merely continued to expand its scope on various levels.

The prosopography of the LWVRC at the end of the decade was typical of many women's groups in the country. The median age of the members was 45, 43 for the presidents. 50% of the members were college graduates. 82% of the members were married, with a median family income of \$10,000. Only 6% of the membership had incomes below \$5000.

In the 1960s, the LWVRC continued to publish its Bulletin, Facts for Voters, and Voters Guides. Also civil rights began to affect the LWVRC's activities in the second half of the decade. However, the documents do not suggest any major activity within the Civil Rights Movement or Women's Rights Movement per se. According to the LWVRC's 1964 Annual Report, the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County members participated in an NAACP survey (survey of what is unclear). In addition, two members served on different committees of the Troy Area Committee for Human Rights in order to prepare voters service materials about local elections for inner-city voters. LWVRC members also conducted a follow-up study of sub-standard rural and urban housing with a slide show that was shown to the community.

In 1965, the LWVRC ran the "Voters Mailbag" column of the *Troy Record*. That same year, the local LWVRC took on a national item project - development of human resources - in order to parallel the national League's agenda. Development of Human Resources explored the problems of the poor, automation, employment and education. Out of this project, the LWVRC published *Up the Ladder* (see Series 2) and *Day Care: Community Challenge and Responsibility* (see Series 2). *Up the Ladder* was partially subsidized by the United Way and thus distributed to their participating social agencies. *Day Care: Community Challenge and Responsibility* was the result of a Community Day Care Conference, which featured panel discussions by day care providers, educators and public officials. As a result, the County Day Care Council was established and *Day Care*, a citizens' guide for setting up day care centers, was published.

In the early 1970s, the LWVRC was diligently fundraising, working on the county and city charters, land use and health care and perfecting their regular agenda items such as voter registration and school initiatives. Its members were very supportive of school lunch programs in Troy city schools. They also added the *Know Your Schools* column of the *Times Record*. They continued their concern on national and international levels. For example, the LWVRC supported "a fair and thorough impeachment inquiry of President Nixon by the House Judiciary Committee." In addition, members supported the Equal Rights Amendment, which was eventually defeated. The LWVRC was also beginning to deal with the issue of allowing men into the organization as full voting members. The issue was contentious on a national level, but the Rensselaer County chapter appeared to be more flexible about the issue.

By 1979, the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County celebrated its 40th anniversary. It encouraged informed voter participation via publications like "Facts for Voters," "Newcomers Flyers," and "Civic Information Sheets." The LWVRC organized Meet the Candidates forums and high school voter registration drives. In a period of 40 years, the LWVRC lobbied the state legislature for improved election laws and sponsored monthly luncheon lectures on issues such as property tax assessment, urban crisis, women and the law and the family court system. Finally, it was consistently active in evaluations of county and city charters in Rensselaer County.

In the 1980s, the LWVRC moved into newer, sometimes more controversial issues. Reapportionment of the county legislature, women and the law, and reproductive rights were some of the newer concerns the LWVRC tackled. The LWVRC also became an integral supporter of the "Bottle Bill" of the early 1980s. In 1983, the organization agreed to store its papers and publications at the Troy Public Library. It received a \$4200 grant from the Howard and Bush Foundation in order to prepare "an historical repository of LWVRC papers at the Troy Public Library." At the same time, the LWVRC helped form the Inter-League Organization (ILO) in order to create a coalition of the five local Leagues in the Capital region.

The more recent records are not as complete. However the LWVRC has not wavered in its traditional goals of nonpartisan, educational information for citizens of the Capital region. In 1992, *A Citizens' Guide to Governments in Rensselaer County* was published under the auspices of the Tema Bellinson Memorial Fund. The publication described the governmental functions for each of the 21 municipal governments of the county (see Series 2). The LWVRC's involvement in welfare issues focused on the needs of children via the Healthy Kids Program with Samaritan Hospital (1994), Bureau of Youth Services and Human Services contracts (1995). Children at risk became a National Junior League focus item in the late 1990s. Members also grew concerned about criminal justice reform and lobbying reform.

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County continued to fall in line with the national League by adopting another item agenda the mid 1990s - "Making Democracy Work" (see Series 6, Box 1, Folder 33 and Box 2, Folders 4, 6, and 8). Activities have concentrated on outreach and involvement of the under-served communities in the county, distributing voter education materials, and election information to state agencies such as WIC, day cares, youth programs, food pantries, public housing authorities, and private agencies like the YWCA, TRIP, and Unity House. Two multi-session community meetings of LWVRC members and representatives from these groups have been held to discuss ways to increase voter participation.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County (LWVRC) donated 15 boxes of records to the M.E. Grenander Special Collections and Archives of the University at Albany Libraries in May 2000. The boxes contained information about the history and activities of the LWVRC since 1939. The collection includes board and general meeting minutes and agendas, treasurers' reports, the results of various studies conducted by the organization, photographs, videos of workshops and debates and audio tapes of oral histories of former members' participation in the League. Publications issued by the League, either locally or nationally, including monthly *Bulletins* and *Calendars*, *The Voter* (a monthly newsletter) and *Election and Voter Guides* published for local elections, are a valuable part of the collection. Though items in the collection span from 1914 to the present, the bulk of information spans the late 1950s through the 1980s.

# **Arrangement of the Collection**

The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1 Administrative Files, 1914-2008, Undated
- 2 Series 2 Publications, 1942-2006, Undated
- 3 Series 3 Rensselaer County Government, ca. 1943-2002, Undated
- 4 Series 4 Local Program Studies, 1946-2006, Undated
- 5 Series 5 Troy Government, 1939-2004
- 6 Series 6 Voter Services, 1943-2007
- 7 Series 7 Subject Files, 1955-2008, Undated
- 8 Series 8 Video and Audio Tapes, 1970-1997

All series are arranged chronologically.

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## **Administrative Information**

#### **Publication Statement**

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

## **Revision Description**

Jamie Brinkman arranged and described the 2005 accession and created an EAD finding aid. Encoded in EAD by Jamie Brinkman 2014 2014

## **Processing Information**

Processed in 2001 by Roseann Santos.

#### Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

## Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

## **Acquisition Information**

Irene Wynnyczuk donated all of the materials in this collection to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 2000 and 2005.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

- Women
- Social Activists and Public Advocates
- Senior Citizens
- Rensselaer County, New York
- Public Servants
- Medicine and Health Care
- Education
- Conservation and the Environment
- Women--New York (State)--Rensselaer County--Societies and clubs
- Women in nonprofit organizations--New York (State)--Rensselaer County
- Local government--New York (State)--Rensselaer County
- Women political activists--New York (State)--Saratoga County
- Election law--New York (State)
- Elections--New York (State)
- Political planning--New York (State)
- Voter registration--New York (State)
- Voting--New York (State)
- Newsletters
- Administrative records
- Minutes
- Publications
- Financial Records
- Videotapes
- League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County
- League of Women Voters (U.S.)

# **Collection Inventory**

## Administrative Files, 1914-2008Undated

Physical Description: 2.20 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 1, Administrative Files, includes official documentation of the boards including meeting minutes, agendas, treasurer reports, and correspondence. It contains the board meeting minutes and agendas from 1961 to 2000, but with several gaps in time. The series also contains information about the LWVRC's annual meetings (1966-1999), membership (1942-1998), by-laws and policy, and tax returns (1967-1985), again with several gaps in time.

Title/Description	Instances	
Administrative File, 19141925	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 1
Administrative File, 1939-1943	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 2
Membership Lists, 1942-19541976-1978	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 3
Administrative File, 1943-1944	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 4
Administrative File, 1944-1945	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 5
Administrative File, 1945-1946	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 6
Administrative File, 1946-1947	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 7
By-Laws, with Revisions, 1946-1982	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 8
Administrative File, 1947-1948	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 9

Administrative File, 1948-1949

	Box 1 (1- Folder 10 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1949-1950	Box 1 (1- Folder 11 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1950-1951	Box 1 (1- Folder 12 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1951-1952	Box 1 (1- Folder 13 Administrative Files)	
Newspaper Album, 1951-1954	Box 1 (1- Folder 14 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1952-1953	Box 1 (1- Folder 15 Administrative Files)	
Budget, 1952-1970	Box 1 (1- Folder 16 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1953-1954	Box 1 (1- Folder 17 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1954-1955	Box 1 (1- Folder 18 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1955-1956	Box 1 (1- Folder 19 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1956-1957	Box 1 (1- Folder 20 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1957-1958	Box 1 (1- Folder 21 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1958-1959	Box 1 (1- Folder 22 Administrative Files)	
Administrative File, 1959-1960	Box 1 (1- Folder 23 Administrative Files)	
Membership Lists, 1959-1974	Oversized 1 Folder 1	
Administrative File, 1960-1961		

	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 24
Administrative File, 1961-1962	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 25
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1961-196219651972-1973	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 26
Administrative File, 1962-1963	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 27
Administrative File, 1963-1964	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 28
Membership - Tea, 1964	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 29
Administrative File, 1964-1965	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 30
Administrative File, 1965-1966	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 31
Annual Meeting Programs, 19661973-2008	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 32-34
Administrative File, 1966-1967	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 35
Administrative File, 1967-1968	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 36
Tax Returns, 1967-1985	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 37
Administrative File, 1968-1969	Box 1 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 38
Administrative File, 1969-1970	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 1-2
Administrative File, 1970-1971	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 3
Administrative File, 1971-1972		

	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 4
Budget and Treasurer's Report, 1971-1987	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 5
Administrative File, 1972-1973	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 6
Membership Directories, 1972-19731979-19811995-1998	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 7
Administrative File, 1973-1974	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 8
Administrative File, 1974-1975	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 9
Administrative File, 1975-1976	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 10
Administrative File, 1976-1977	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 11
Administrative File, 1977-1978	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 12
Membership, Joining LWVRC, 1977-19791997-1999	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 13
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1978-1981	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 14
Administrative File, 1978-1979	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 15
Administrative File, 1979-1980	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 16
Administrative File, 1980-1981	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 17
Administrative File, 1981-1982	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 18
Administration Eile 1002 1002		

	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 19
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1982-19831985	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 20
Administrative File, 1983-1984	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 21
Administrative File, 1984-1987	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 22
Administrative File, 1990-2000	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 23
Non-Partisan Policy, 1992-1993	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 24
Board Meetings and Agendas, 1993-1996	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 25
Budget and Treasurer Reports, 1993-1997	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 26
Administrative File, 1993-2008Undated	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 27
Former Presidents, 19941997Undated	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 28
Resolution Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, 1995	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 29
Certificate of Merit, 1996	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 30
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1997	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 31
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1998	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 32
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1999-2000	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 33
Decard Meeting Minutes and Asserted 2000 2002		

	Box 2 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 34
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 2004	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 1
Administrative File, 2004-2005	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 2
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 2005	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 3
Administrative File and Membership List, 2006	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 4
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 2006	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 5
Board Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 2007	Box 3 (1- Administrative Files)	Folder 6

## Publications, 1942-2006Undated

Physical Description: 1.20 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 2 includes League publications, both local and national. Like all of the projects described in the administrative history, the League sought to educate and inform the voting public about government and policy in Rensselaer County, New York State, and to a smaller extent, the United States. Publications include a series of pamphlets about specific elections, voting in general, registration facts and candidates. In addition, the collection includes histories about the League and Carrie Chapman Catt, the League's founder. *Bulletins* from 1942-1990 are also included. The *Bulletins* were usually monthly and included up-to-date information about League activities. Letters from the Presidents, calendars of events, future and current goals, and projects and legislation of interest were often part of the information included in the *Bulletin*. Ten years worth of the League's newsletter, *The Voter* are also part of the series, along with *Election Bulletins* of the 1940s, and *Voter's Bulletins* of the 1950s and 1960s. The LWVRC also put out their own publications about local issues including "Troy - Your City," *Trojans, Know Your School*, *Up the Ladder: A Study of Anti-Poverty in Rensselaer County* in 1952, 1955 and 1968 respectively.

Title/Description	Instances
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Bulletin, 1942

	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 1
Bulletin, 1943	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 2
Bulletin, 1944	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 3
Bulletin, 1945	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 4
Bulletin, 1946	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 5
Bulletin, 1947	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 6
Bulletin, 1948	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 7
Bulletin, 1949	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 8
Bulletin, 1950	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 9
Bulletin, 1951	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 10
Bulletin, 1952	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 11
"Troy-Your City", 1952	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 12
Bulletin, 1953	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 13
Bulletin, 1954	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 14
Bulletin, 1955	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 15
Bulletin, 1956	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 16
Bulletin, 1957	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 17
Bulletin, 1957	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 18
Bulletin, 1957	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 19
"Carrie Chapman Catt: The Power of an Idea", 1958	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 20
DU		

Bulletin, 1958

	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 21
Bulletin, 1959	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 22
"Forty Years of a Great Idea: League of Women Voters United States", 1960	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 23
Bulletin, 1961	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 24
Bulletin, 1962	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 25
Bulletin, 1963	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 26
Bulletin, 1964	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 27
Bulletin, 1965	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 28
Bulletin, 1966	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 29
Bulletin, 1967	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 30
"Up the Ladder: A Study of Anti-Poverty in Rensselaer County", 1968	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 31
Bulletin, 1968	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 32
Bulletin, 1969	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 33
Day Care: Community Challenge and Responsibility, 1969	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 34
Report on Housing in Rensselaer County, 1970	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 35
Bulletin, 1970	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 36
Bulletin, 1971	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 37
Bulletin, 1972	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 38
Bulletin, 1973	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 39
Bulletin, 1974	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 40
Bulletin, 1975		

	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 41
Bulletin, 1976	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 42
Bulletin, 1977	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 43
Local Government, 1977	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 44
Bulletin, 1978	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 45
Bulletin, 1979	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 46
Bulletin, 1980	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 47
Bulletin, 1981	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 48
Bulletin, 1982	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 49
Bulletin, 1983	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 50
"A Great Idea through the Years: 1920 to Present", 1984	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 51
Bulletin, 1984	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 52
Bulletin, 1985	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 53
Bulletin, 1986	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 54
The Voter, 1986-1988	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 55
Bulletin, 1987	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 56
Easy-to-READ Voter Registration Facts Pamphlets, 1988	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 57
In League: League of Women Voters of the United States, 1989	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 58
The Voter, 1989-1991	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 59
Bulletin, 1990	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 60
The Western 1002 1005		

The Voter, 1992-1995

	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 61
A Citizen's Guide to Local Governments in Rensselaer County, 1993-1995	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 62
"Action in Albany", 1994-1997	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 63
"Getting into the Issues: Your Guide to the 1996 Elections", 1996	Box 1 (2- Publications)	Folder 64
The Voter, 1996-1999	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 1
The National Voter, 1997	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 2
Candidates for Office in Rensselaer County, 1997	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 3
Election 1997 Brochures, 1997	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 4
Voting in General, 1997-1998	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 5
The Voter, 2000-2003	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 6
The Voter, 2004-2006	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 7
"A Report to the Nation on the Activities of the League of Women Voters of the United States", Undated	Box 2 (2- Publications)	Folder 8

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## Rensselaer County Government, ca. 1943-2002Undated

Physical Description: 0.90 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 3, Rensselaer County Government, provides a chronological record of the League's activities concerning the county government from 1952 to 1982. Some of the subject areas include apportionment, the charter, economic development, fair campaign practices and lobbying. The series contains materials on Know Your Rensselaer County, an effort by the LWVRC to bring awareness to Rensselaer County residents about the county government and electoral process within the county. The LWVRC has been involved in this effort since the 1940s, surveying and evaluating the status of the county government and its projects at any given time. The League was especially interested in public health (tuberculosis in particular), children's services, and the county's welfare administration in the 1940s. However, its interests also included jury selection, election participation, population, economy and local history. In the 1960s, the LWVRC began drafting *Know Your Rensselaer County*, which provided a portrait of the county's various departments, elected offices, and public projects. In 1972, county voters passed a charter-

form of government. As a result, the League would become a sort of "watchdog" group for the implementation and execution of the goals of the charter, as will be seen in Series 6. By 1992, the LWVRC published the *Rensselaer County Government Workbook* as part of its review of the charter. It also expressed the League's position, supporting the County Charter. The purpose of the workbook was to "share information about the County Charter with students and teachers of High School Participation in Government classes as part of the Bicentennial Commission's Education Program."

Title/Description	Instances	
Know Your Rensselaer County, ca. 1943	Box 1 (3- Rensselaer	Folder 1
	County Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1952	Box 1 (3-	Folder 2
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1953	Box 1 (3-	Folder 3
	Rensselaer	
	County Government)	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1954	Box 1 (3-	Folder 4
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Economic Characteristics of Rensselaer County, ca. 1955	Box 1 (3-	Folder 5
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1955	Box 1 (3-	Folder 6
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1956	Box 1 (3-	Folder 7
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1958	Box 1 (3-	Folder 8
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Rensselaer County Government, 1961	Box 1 (3-	Folder 9
	Rensselaer	
	County	
	Government)	
Know Your Rensselaer County Draft on Government, Services,	Box 1 (3-	Folder 10-11
and History, 1965	Rensselaer	

	County Government)	
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League of Women Voters Study of the County Charter, 1971	Box 1 (3- Rensselaer County Government)	Folder 23
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Rensselaer County Legislature, League of Women Voters Position on Reapportionment and Lobbying, 1982	Box 2 (3- Rensselaer County Government)	Folder 5
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Rensselaer County Government, History and Mary Stierer's Script for a Skit at a League of Women Voters Membership Meeting, ca. 1991	Box 2 (3- Rensselaer County Government)	Folder 7
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#### County Government)

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## Local Program Studies, 1946-2006Undated

Physical Description: 1.28 cubic ft.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 4, Local Program Studies, includes documentation about the various projects and programs that the LWVRC has taken on. Again focusing on elections and financing, particularly in the schools, the LWVRC provided information to the citizens of the county. Aside from public school related projects, the LWVRC took on apportionment, city planning, land use, criminal justice court reform, human resources development, environment, ERA, health care, housing, international relations, arms control, New York State politics, revenue sharing and reproductive rights.

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League of Women Voters School Elections, 1946-1955	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 2
School Financing, 1953	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 3
School Financing, 1954	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 4
International Relations, Bricker Amendment, 1954	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 5
Criminal Justice Court Reform, 1954-1975	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 6
Know Your Schools, City of Troy, 1955	Box 1 (4-Local	Folder 7

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Schools, 1955	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 8
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Individual Liberties, Federal Loyalty Security Program, 1957	Box 1 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 13
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International Relations, China, 1968-1970	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 3
Solid Waste Management, 1968-1984	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 4
Development of Human Resources, Housing in Rensselaer County, 1968-1970	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 5
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International Relations, Foreign Economic Policy, 1969	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 7
Development of Human Resources, Day Care Council, 1969	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 8
Development of Human Resources, Education, 1969	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 9
International Relations, Foreign Policy, 1969-1970	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 10
School Financing, 1970	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 11
Development of Human Resources, Up the Ladder Update, 1970	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 12
Land Use County Planning Study, 1970-1971	Box 2 (4-Local	Folder 13

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League of Women Voters Election Law Study, 1970-1972	Box 2 (4-Local Program Studies)	Folder 15
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## Troy City Government, 1939-2004Undated

Physical Description: 0.85 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 5, Troy Government, is similar to Series 3 in that the documents provide a chronological account of the LWVRC's involvement in the affairs of Troy's government. The series contains material about the Troy City Charter as the LWVRC has been involved in the oversight and development of Troy's charter since the 1950s. In more recent times, the League has been involved in charter campaigns and revisions, examining the role of the mayor and developing questionnaires about how to improve the city's charter.

Title/Description	Instances
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•	Troy City
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Troy Government, 1956

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F. C. 1067		

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## Voter Services, 1943-2007Undated

Physical Description: 1.60 cubic ft.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 6 contains information about Voter Services. Voter Services is the League's most active program, whereby they register people to vote, sponsor election debates, publish literature about candidates and citizens' rights as voters, and oversee the local electoral process in hopes of keeping the process fair and the citizenry well-educated about their rights and responsibilities as voters. This series contains various oversized items, including the League's Election and Voter Guides that were often published as supplements in the local papers. The League advocated high school students' participation in local elections and permanent personal registration. They were also involved in

the Troy Housing Authority, Troy Public Library, and Rensselaer School elections. Activities ranged from voter registration, to candidate questionnaires to flyers and pamphlets that provided basic information about voting and the candidates.

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## Subject Files, 1923-2008Undated

Physical Description: 0.60 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 7, Subject Files, consists of a more general and broader overview of the LWVRC's programs and activities. The series contains newspaper clippings from 1974 to 1993 on issues surrounding politics and schools, county apportionment, human resources, financing public higher education, investment in developing countries, the New York State Budget Process, public health, redistricting, Troy housing and Troy police court.

Title/Description	Instances	
League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County Chapter History, 192319381964Undated	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 1
Tema Bellinson Memorial, 195519701994	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 2
National Study, Investment in Developing Countries, 1963	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 3
State Study, Reapportionment, ca. 1964	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 4
County Study, Human Resources, 1968	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 5
Correspondence about Up the Ladder, 1969	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 6
50th Anniversary of the Founding of the League Women Voters of the United States, 1970	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 7
Air Pollution Consensus Conducted by National League Women of Voters, 1971	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 8

Troy Housing, 1973

	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 9
Local Government in New York State, ca. 1974	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 10
Clippings about Politics, 1974-1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 11
Clippings about the League of Women Voters in General, 1974-1993	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 12
Miscellaneous, 1977-1978Undated	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 13
Howard and Bush Proposal, 1980-1981	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 14
County Apportionment, 1980-1986	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 15
Public Meeting, Federal Tax Reform Proposals, 1985	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 16
Recycling Speaker, 1987	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 17
Student League of Voters at Russell Sage College, an Affiliate of League of Women Voters, 1989-1998Undated	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 18-19
Redistricting/Reapportionment, 1991-1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 20
New York State Budget Process, Background Material, 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 21
New York State Budget Process, "Budget Watch", 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 22
New York State Budget Process, Committee and Meeting Notes, 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 23
New York State Budget Process, Consensus Questions, 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 24
New York State Budget Process, State Board Reports, 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 25
New York State Budget Process, State Committee Notes, 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 26
New York State Budget Process <i>The Voter</i> , 1992	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 27
Troy Police Court, 1993	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 28
Public Health, 1994	Box 1 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 29
Mobilization for Our Children, State Communities Aid Association, 1995	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 1

Local Government Conference, 1996 January 12-1996 January 13	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 2
Financing Public Education, 1996	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 3
State Commission on the Capital Region, 1996	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 4
New York State Constitutional Convention Correspondence, 1997	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 5
Financing Public Higher Education, 1997-1999	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 6
Archives in the Troy Public Library, 1998	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 7
Informations and Nominations Sent to League of Women Voters of New York State, 2002-2008	Box 2 (7- Subject Files)	Folder 8

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## Video and Audio Tapes, 1970-1997

Physical Description: 0.4 cubic ft.

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Series 8 is made up of audio/visual tapes. There are 5 VHS tapes (1995-1997). In 1995, the League hosted a panel discussion on environmental issues. In 1996, it hosted a public information meeting on financing education and a workshop on the 1996 election. In 1997, it hosted a candidates' forum and a meet the candidates' panel. In addition, the series also includes a 7.5 speed dual track reel of a discussion between Beulah Bailey Thull, the LWVRC's first president, and Mary Stierer, LWVRC president from 1969-71 concerning the city manager form of government, Troy politics and history, the suffrage movement and voter registration. The discussion was for Paul Flanigan's radio show (WTRY) in 1970. There are also 2 UCA60 videocassettes about the 1980 election for Troy mayor. Finally the series contains 3 60-minute audiotapes labeled the "History Project." Taped in 1982, the cassettes are interviews with Ruth Binder, Eva Levy and Mary Stierer, past League leaders.

Title/Description	Instances
Beulah Bailey Thull and Mary Stierer, two Presidents of the LWVRC, discuss Troy Government, 1970	Reel 1
"Election 80 - Mayor or Manager for City of Troy", 1980	Video-Tape 1-2
LWVRC History Project, Ruth Binder, 1982 August 05	Cassette 1
LWVRC History Project, Eva Levy, 1982 August 10	Cassette 2
LWVRC History Project, Mary Stierer, 1982 August 23	Cassette 3
Untitled Videotape, 1995 October 26	Video-Tape 3

Public Info. Meeting on Financing Education, 1996 March 28	Video-Tape 4
Getting Into Issues - 1996 Election", 1996 September 24	Video-Tape 5
Election 1997, Candidates Forum for County Clerk, District Attorney, and County Executive, 1997 October 08	Video-Tape 6
Meet the Candidate, Troy Council, 1997 October 23	Video-Tape 7

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