

A Guide to the Personal Papers of Mary Margaret Whipple, 1965-2000

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A Collection in Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History RG 168
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Title Statement

A Guide to the Personal Papers of Mary Margaret Whipple, 1965-2000

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 168

Language

English

Creator

Whipple, Mary Margaret, 1940-

Extent

3 boxes.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Thomas Whipple in 2007.

Preferred Citation

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Other collections containing Whipple campaign material are [RG 26, Campaign Literature](#), and [RG 186, McGeary Campaign Literature Collection](#). Mary Marshall, a prominent predecessor representing Arlington in House of Delegates, has material in [RG 65, Mary Marshall Papers](#). Whipple's contemporary Charles Rinker has material in [RG 323, Rinker Family Papers](#).

Biographical Information

Mary Margaret Whipple was born in 1940 and moved to Arlington in the early 1960s. She was appointed to the Arlington School Board in 1976 and was chair in 1978-1979. Whipple ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Arlington County Board in 1979, and later was elected to serve on the Board as a Democrat, 1983-1995. Elected as a Democrat to the Virginia State Senate for the 31st District in 1995, she served until 2012, when she retired from the legislature. While serving in Richmond, Whipple was Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus and was the first woman to hold a leadership position in the Virginia General Assembly. Whipple's policy focus concentrated on renewable energy and Virginia's tax system.

Scope and Content

RG 168 houses the personal papers of Mary Margaret Whipple. The collection measures approximately 1.5 linear feet and dates from 1965 through 2000, with the bulk dating from 1978-1982. Types of material include press releases, campaign literature and letters, local issue files, Arlington election results, a periodical, and clippings.

Series 1, Subject Files, largely concerns her unsuccessful County Board campaign and preparation for it, 1978-1979. She and Charles Rinker ran on a platform favoring completion of Metrorail, smart growth, excellent schools, reasonable taxes and fiscal responsibility, and the preservation of apartment communities. Files contain campaign material, letters, and issue background documents. *Series 2, Arlington Election Results*, concerns Arlington election totals. *Series 3* is campaign literature, chiefly from 1982. *Series 4* contains copies of *The Arlington Way*, published by Arlingtonians for a Better County, 1988-1998. *Series 5* contains clippings concerning the 1975 Virginia legislative session and political events in 1981 and 1982.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Women -- United States.
Arlington County (Va.) -- Politics and government.
Virginia -- Politics and government
Arlington (Va.)
Arlington County (Va.)

Arrangement

Record Group 168 is organized into five series. *Series 1* is arranged alphabetically by subject. *Series 2-5* are chiefly arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series 1: Subject Files

File 1: Advertisements, [1979]

Box 1

File 2: Affirmative Action, 1978-1979

Box 1

File 3: Budget Proposal for Campaign, 1979

Box 1

File 4: County Board Campaign Coalition, 1977

Box 1

File 5: "County Board Highlights," 1978-1979

Box 1

File 6: Democratic Slate, 1979

Box 1

File 7: Economic Development, 1976-1979

Box 1

File 8: Elderly, 1979

Box 1

File 9: Fire Department, 1978-1979

Box 1

File 10: "Green Thing," 1979

Box 1

File 11: Grip Card, 1979

Box 1

File 12: Handouts for Convention, [1979]

Box 1

File 13: Issues, 1979

Box 1

File 14: Letter to Democrats, 1979

Box 1

File 15: Letters, General, 1979

Box 1

File 16: Master Thoroughfare Plan, 1979

Box 1

File 17: Meeting Notices, etc., 1979

Box 1

File 18: Parks, 1979

Box 1

File 19: Personnel: Department Organization, 19721978-1979

Box 1

File 20: Poll, 1979

Box 1

File 21: Press Releases, 1979

Box 1

File 22: Public Works, 1978

Box 1

File 23: Recreation, 1979

Box 1

File 24: Resume, [1979]

Box 1

File 25: Rules for ABC Convention, 1979

Box 1

File 26: Rules for Democratic Mass Meeting, 1979

Box 1

File 27: Schools, 1978-1979

Box 1

File 28: Snow Removal, 1979

Box 1

File 29: Speeches, [1979]

Box 1

File 30: Taxation and Assessment, 1979

Box 1

File 31: Walkways

Box 1

File 32: Zoning, 1978-1979

Box 1

Series 2: Arlington Election Results

File 1: Election Totals, 1920-1980

Box 2

File 2: Arlington County Candidates Election Totals, 1920-1994

Box 2

File 3: "Non-Partisans in Arlington," 1972

Box 2

File 4: Voter Turnout and Precinct Analysis, 1940-1991

Box 2

File 5: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1965-1973

Box 2

File 6: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1974-1981

Box 2

File 7: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1982-1986

Box 2

File 8: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1987-1990

Box 2

File 9: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1991-1994

Box 2

File 10: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1995-1997

Box 2

File 11: Voter Totals by Precinct, 1998-1999

Box 3

File 12: Arlington County Registered Voter, 1968-1992

Box 3

Series 3: Election Campaigns

File 1: Whipple Bond, 1982

Box 3

File 2: Whipple Campaign Literature, 1982

Box 3

File 3: Other Democratic Campaign Literature, 1982-2000

Box 3

File 4: Republican Campaign Literature, 1982

Box 3

Series 4: The Arlington Way

File 1: The Arlington Way, November 1988-October 1991

Box 3

File 2: The Arlington Way, January 1992-November 1998

Box 3

Series 5: Clippings

File 1: Clippings from the 1975 Legislative Scrapbook (1)

Box 3

File 2: Clippings from the 1975 Legislative Scrapbook (2)

Box 3

File 3: Clippings, 1981

Box 3

File 4: Clippings, 1982

Box 3

