

A Guide to the McGeary Campaign Literature Collection, 1951-2010

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Title Statement

A Guide to the McGeary Campaign Literature Collection, 1951-2010

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 186

Language

English

Collector

McGeary, Scott

Extent

4 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

Donated by Scott McGeary in June 2011.

Preferred Citation

McGeary Campaign Literature Collection, Collection # RG 186, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Researchers interested in partisan politics in Arlington and Virginia may consult records such as [RG 26, Campaign Literature](#), or [RG 137, Records of the Arlington County Democratic Committee](#). For individual candidates see, for example, [RG 65, the Personal Papers of Mary A. Marshall](#), [RG 108, Personal Papers of Roye Lowry](#), or [RG 168, the Personal Papers of Mary Margaret Whipple](#). [RG 94](#) contains [Arlingtonians for a Better County Organizational Records](#).

Scope and Content

RG 186 houses Scott McGeary's personal collection of political materials for Arlington County and Virginia. The record group measures approximately two linear feet and dates from 1951 to 2010 (bulk 1960-2002). Types of material include printed campaign literature, sample ballots, photographs, clippings, and a thesis. While most of the materials are for the Republican or Democratic parties, there are also some nonpartisan materials, including a thesis on Arlingtonians for a Better County by Franklin O. Felt. Materials cover the two major parties for most years for elections in local, state, and Congressional races.

Candidate qualifications stressed in the materials include understanding of local and state conditions, personal probity, high levels of education, and depth of experience, especially at the local level. Many candidates for state positions served first on the Arlington School Board, then on the Arlington County Board. Matters of policy most mentioned are fiscal responsibility (i.e. low taxes), education funding, and transportation issues. The tone of the materials is uniformly civil, reflecting a courteous and positive rather than an aggressive campaign style and presenting a candidate's virtues rather than emphasizing an opponent's defects.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Women -- United States.

Arlington County (Va.) -- Politics and government.

Virginia -- Politics and government.

Arrangement

Record Group 186 maintains the original organization and arrangement created by Mr. McGeary. There are four series by type of material: loose campaign materials, sample ballots (both in chronological order), a thesis about Arlingtonians for a Better County, and individual Arlington and Virginia officials and candidates campaign materials, removed from loose-leaf binders to file folders, but still kept in alphabetical order. Folders containing photographs have an asterisk [*] after the file name. Folders with oversized materials have a double asterisk [**] to denote where material was removed and separation sheets added.

Contents List

Series 1: Loose Campaign Materials

File 1: Republican Candidate Literature, 1951

Box 1

File 2: AIM Candidate Literature: Leone Buchholz, 1954

Box 1

File 3: AIM Candidate Literature, 1955

Box 1

File 4: AIM Candidate Literature, 1956

Box 1

File 5: Democratic Candidate Primary Literature: Kathryn Stone, 1957

Box 1

File 6: AIM Candidate Literature: Leone Buchholz, 1958

Box 1

File 7: "Ike" Bumper Sticker, 1960

Box 1

File 8: Republican Candidate Campaign Materials, 1961

Box 1

File 9: ABC Candidate Campaign Materials: Roye Lowry, 1961

Box 1

File 10: DCYR Candidate Literature, 1961

Box 1

File 11: Arlington Republican Party Joint Materials, 1961

Box 1

File 12: ABC Candidate Literature: Leo Urbanske, Jr., 1962

Box 1

File 13: Democratic Candidate Literature: Allen Harrison, 1962

Box 1

File 14: ABC Candidate Literature, 1963

Box 1

File 15: Joint Democratic Literature, 1963

Box 1

File 16: Joint Republican Literature, 1963

Box 1

File 17: Republican Candidate Literature, 1963

Box 1

File 18: Guy Farley Literature, 1963

Box 1

File 19: Republican Candidate Literature: Richard May, 1964

Box 1

File 20: Republican Candidate Literature, 1965

Box 1

File 21: ABC Candidate Literature: Roye Lowry, 1965

Box 1

File 22: Democratic Candidate Literature: Clive DuVal, 1966

Box 1

File 23: Joint Republican Campaign Literature, 1966

Box 1

File 24: Joint Republican Literature, 1967

Box 1

File 25: Republican State Convention Candidate Literature: Kenneth Haggerty, 1970

Box 1

File 26: Joint Republican Literature, 1971

Box 1

File 27: Joint Democratic Literature, 1971

Box 1

File 28: Joint Republican Literature, 1973

Box 1

File 29: Joint Democratic Literature, 1974

Box 1

File 30: Joint Republican Literature, 1976

Box 1

File 31: Joint Democratic Literature, 1976

Box 1

File 32: Joint Republican Literature, 1977

Box 1

File 33: Joint Republican Literature, 1978

Box 1

File 34: Joint Democratic Literature, 1978

Box 1

File 35: Joint Republican Literature, 1979

Box 1

File 36: Joint Republican Literature, 1980

Box 1

File 37: Joint Republican Literature, 1981

Box 1

File 38: Joint Democratic Literature, 1981

Box 1

File 39: Joint Republican Literature, 1982

Box 1

File 40: Joint Republican Literature, 1983

Box 1

File 41: Joint Democratic Literature, 1983

Box 1

File 42: Joint Republican Literature, 1984

Box 1

File 43: Joint Democratic Literature, 1984

Box 1

File 44: Joint Republican Literature, 1985

Box 1

File 45: Joint Democratic Literature, 1985

Box 1

File 46: Joint Democratic Literature, 1986

Box 1

File 47: Joint Democratic Literature, 1987

Box 1

File 48: Joint Independent Literature, 1987

Box 1

File 49: Joint Democratic Literature, 1988

Box 1

File 50: Joint Democratic Literature, 1989

Box 1

File 51: Joint Democratic Literature, 1990

Box 1

File 52: Joint Republican Literature, 1991

Box 1

File 53: Joint Democratic Literature, 1991

Box 1

File 54: Joint Democratic Literature, 1992

Box 1

File 55: Perot Literature, 1992

Box 1

File 56: County Board Special Election Literature, 1993

Box 1

File 57: Individual Literature, 1993

Box 1

File 58: Joint Republican Literature, 1993

Box 1

File 59: Joint Democratic Literature, 1993

Box 1

File 60: Arlington County School Board Literature, 1994

Box 1

File 61: Joint Republican Literature, 1994

Box 1

File 62: Joint Democratic Literature, 1994

Box 1

File 63: Arlington County Board Democratic Primary Candidate Literature (Partial), 1995

Box 1

File 64: Joint Republican Literature, 1995

Box 1

File 65: Joint Democratic Literature, 1995

Box 1

File 66: Republican Candidate Literature, 1995

Box 1

File 67: Arlington County Board Special Election Campaign Literature, 1996

Box 1

File 68: Joint Republican Literature, 1996

Box 1

File 69: Joint Democratic Literature, 1996

Box 1

File 70: Arlington School Board Candidate Literature, 1996

Box 1

File 71: Arlington County Republican Party Canvass for Arlington County Board, 1997

Box 1

File 72: Republican Primary Literature for Lt. Governor and Attorney General, 1997

Box 1

File 73: Democratic Primary for 48th House of Delegates District Seat & Arlington County Board, 1997

Box 1

File 74: Arlington County Special Election for Arlington County Board Literature, 1997

Box 1

File 75: Joint Republican Literature, 1997

Box 1

File 76: Joint Democratic Literature, 1997

Box 1

File 77: Joint Republican Literature, 1998

Box 1

File 78: Joint Democratic Literature, 1998

Box 1

File 79: Arlington County Public School Bond Issue Literature, 1998

Box 1

File 80: Arlington County Special Election for County Board Democratic Literature, 1999

Box 1

File 81: Arlington County School Board Candidate Literature, 1999

Box 1

File 82: Joint Republican Literature (some Fairfax County), 1999

Box 1

File 83: Joint Democratic Literature, 1999

Box 1

File 84: Joint Republican Literature, 2000

Box 1

File 85: Joint Democratic Literature and Endorsed School Board Candidate, 2000

Box 1

File 86: Joint Republican Literature, 2001

Box 1

File 87: Independent Candidate for County Board Endorsed by County Republicans, 2001

Box 1

File 88: Joint Democratic Literature, 2001

Box 1

File 89: Joint Republican Literature, 2002

Box 1

File 90: Democratic Literature, 2002

Box 1

File 91: Independent School Board Literature, 2002

Box 1

File 92: Special Election for Arlington County Board Republican Candidate Literature, 2003

Box 1

File 93: Special Election for Arlington County Board Democratic Candidate Literature, 2003

Box 2

Series 2: Sample Ballots

File 1: Republican Sample Ballot, 1965

Box 2

File 2: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1965

Box 2

File 3: ABC Sample Ballot, 1965

Box 2

File 4: Republican Sample Ballot, 1966

Box 2

File 5: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1966

Box 2

File 6: Republican Sample Ballot, 1967

Box 2

File 7: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1967

Box 2

File 8: Republican Sample Ballot, 1969

Box 2

File 9: Republican Sample Ballot, 1972

Box 2

File 10: Republican Sample Ballot, 1973

Box 2

File 11: Republican Sample Ballot, 1974

Box 2

File 12: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1974

Box 2

File 13: Republican Sample Ballot, 1975

Box 2

File 14: Independent Sample Ballot, 1975

Box 2

File 15: ABC Sample Ballot, 1975

Box 2

File 16: Republican Sample Ballot, 1976

Box 2

File 17: Republican Sample Ballot, 1977

Box 2

File 18: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1977

Box 2

File 19: Independent Sample Ballot, 1977

Box 2

File 20: Republican Sample Ballot, 1978

Box 2

File 21: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1978

Box 2

File 22: Independent Sample Ballot, 1978

Box 2

File 23: Republican Sample Ballot, 1979

Box 2

File 24: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1979

Box 2

File 25: Republican Sample Ballot, 1980

Box 2

File 26: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1980

Box 2

File 27: Independent Sample Ballot, 1980

Box 2

File 28: Republican Sample Ballot, 1981

Box 2

File 29: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1981

Box 2

File 30: Republican Sample Ballot, 1982

Box 2

File 31: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1982

Box 2

File 32: Republican Sample Ballot, 1983

Box 2

File 33: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1983

Box 2

File 34: Republican Sample Ballot, 1984

Box 2

File 35: Republican Sample Ballot, 1985

Box 2

File 36: Republican Sample Ballot, 1986

Box 2

File 37: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1986

Box 2

File 38: Republican Sample Ballot, 1987

Box 2

File 39: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1987

Box 2

File 40: Independent Sample Ballot, 1987

Box 2

File 41: Republican Presidential Primary Sample Ballot, 1988

Box 2

File 42: Republican Sample Ballot, 1988

Box 2

File 43: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1988

Box 2

File 44: Bond Issue Sample Ballot, 1988

Box 2

File 45: Republican Sample Ballot, 1989

Box 2

File 46: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1989

Box 2

File 47: Republican Sample Ballot, 1990

Box 2

File 48: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1990

Box 2

File 49: Bond Issue Sample Ballot, 1990

Box 2

File 50: Republican Sample Ballot, 1991

Box 2

File 51: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1991

Box 2

File 52: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1992

Box 2

File 53: Perot Sample Ballot, 1992

Box 2

File 54: Bonds Sample Ballot, 1992

Box 2

File 55: Republican Sample Ballot, 1993

Box 2

File 56: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1993

Box 2

File 57: Republican Sample Ballot, 1994

Box 2

File 58: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1994

Box 2

File 59: Arlington County General Election Ballot, 1995 **

Box 2

File 60: Republican Sample Ballot, 1995

Box 2

File 61: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1995

Box 2

File 62: Republican Sample Ballot, 1996

Box 2

File 63: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1996

Box 2

File 64: Republican Sample Ballot, 1997

Box 2

File 65: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1997

Box 2

File 66: Republican Sample Ballot, 1998

Box 2

File 67: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1998

Box 2

File 68: Special Election Democratic Sample Ballot, 1998

Box 2

File 69: Republican Sample Ballot, 1999

Box 2

File 70: Democratic Sample Ballot, 1999

Box 2

File 71: Republican Sample Ballot, 2000

Box 2

File 72: Democratic Sample Ballot, 2000

Box 2

File 73: Arlington County Electoral Board, 2001 **

Box 2

File 74: Republican Sample Ballot, 2001

Box 2

File 75: Democratic Sample Ballot, 2001

Box 2

File 76: Firefighters and Police Officers Sample Ballot, 2001

Box 2

File 77: Arlington County Electoral Board Sample Ballot, 2002

Box 2

File 78: Republican Sample Ballot, 2002

Box 2

File 79: Democratic Sample Ballot, 2002

Box 2

Series 3: Arlington and Virginia Officials and Candidates Campaign Materials

File 1: Abbit, W. M., [n.d.]

Box 2

File 2: Arthur, Beth, 1999-[2000]

Box 2

File 3: Baber, John, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 4: Barr, John, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 5: Beale, Herald "Skip," 1977

Box 2

File 6: Bell, David, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 7: Beyer, Don, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 8: Bolling, Bill, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 9: Bozman, Ellen, [n.d.]*

Box 2

File 10: Broyhill, Joel T., 1952-1974

Box 2

File 11: Brunner, Mike, 1983

Box 2

File 12: Byrd, Harry, Jr., 1970-1982

Box 2

File 13: Callahan, Vince, 1970 *

Box 2

File 14: Calhoun, Robert L., 1984-1995

Box 2

File 15: Campbell, Edmund D. & Elizabeth P., 1952 1955-2009

Box 2

File 16: Coleman, Marshall, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 17: Cuccinelli, Ken, [n.d.]

Box 2

File 18: Dalton, Eddy, 1989

Box 3

File 19: Dalton, John, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 20: Darner, Karen, [1995]

Box 3

File 21: Detwiler, Steve, 1978-1982

Box 3

File 22: Diamonstein, Alan, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 23: Dolan, Bill, 1997

Box 3

File 24: Durette, Wyatt, 1985

Box 3

File 25: Earley, Mark, [2001]

Box 3

File 26: Echols, Pat, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 27: Eisenberg, Albert C., 1990

Box 3

File 28: Fahey, Helen, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 29: Faust, Tom, 1990

Box 3

File 30: Ferguson, Paul, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 31: Fisette, Jay, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 32: Foster, David M., [n.d.]

Box 3

File 33: Frankland, Walter L., 1983

Box 3

File 34: Gilmore, Jim, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 35: Gondles, Jim, 1979-1986

Box 3

File 36: Green, George Mason, Jr., [1971?]

Box 3

File 37: Hager, John, 1987-1997

Box 3

File 38: Haggerty, Kenneth M., 1964-1969

Box 3

File 39: Hassan, William, 1962 *

Box 3

File 40: Holland, Edward M., 1971 *

Box 3

File 41: Holton, Linwood, 1969-1978

Box 3

File 42: Hudson, Henry E., 1979-1983

Box 3

File 43: Hunter, James B., 1990-1998 *

Box 3

File 44: Hynes, Mary, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 45: Kaine, Timothy M., 2006

Box 3

File 46: Kelly, Mark, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 47: Kilgore, Jerry, 2001

Box 3

File 48: Lechner, Ira, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 49: McAuliffe, Terry, 2009

Box 3

File 50: McDonnell, Robert, [2005]-2010

Box 3

File 51: McGeary, Scott, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 52: Mann, C. Harrison, 1976-1977 *

Box 3

File 53: Marshall, John, 1983

Box 3

File 54: Melnik, John, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 55: Miller, Clint, 1993

Box 3

File 56: Milliken, John, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 57: Mitchell, Conchita, 1994

Box 3

File 58: Moran, James, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 59: Morgan, Herbert, 1972 -[n.d.]

Box 3

File 60: Newman, Bill, 1987

Box 3

File 61: O'Leary, Frank, 1983

Box 3

File 62: Obenshain, Richard D., [1978]

Box 3

File 63: Parris, Stan, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 64: Pascoe, Bill, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 65: Robertson, A. Willis, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 66: Robinson, J. Kenneth, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 67: Saslaw, Richard L., [n.d.]

Box 3

File 68: Sawfield, David, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 69: Shafran, Tom, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 70: Spong, William B., [1966]

Box 3

File 71: Stambaugh, Warren, [1985]-1990

Box 3

File 72: Steinmetz, Michael, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 73: Tribble, Paul, [1982]-1989

Box 3

File 74: Vasapoli, Joe, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 75: Wampler, William C., [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 76: Warner, John, 1978, 2001, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 77: Warner, Mark, 2002

Box 3

File 78: West, Jade, [n.d.]

Box 3

File 79: Whipple, Mary Margaret, 1994

Box 3

File 80: Whitehurst, William, [n.d.]*

Box 3

File 81: Wholey, Joe, 1974

Box 3

File 82: Wolf, Frank, 1975-1986 *

Box 4

Series 4: Thesis, "A Study of a Nonpolitical Organization: The Arlingtonians For a Better County (ABC)" by Franklin O. Felt

File 1: Title Page - Page 135

Box 4

File 2: Page 136-257

Box 4