

Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records

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1968-1969



Title Statement

Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records, 1968-1969 Ms.1972.002

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1972.002

Unit Date

1968-1969

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains the records of the Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision, including articles of the constitution, minutes and summaries of actions, reports of subcommittees, correspondence and memoranda, commentary, drafts, and galley proofs of revised constitution.

Creator

Virginia. Commission on Constitutional Revision

Extent

2 Cubic Feet 4 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Source of Acquisition

The Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records were donated to Newman Library in 1969 with the proviso that they not be released to the public before January 1, 1971. They were transferred to Special Collections in 1972.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records commenced and was completed in October 2008.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision Records, Ms1972-002, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Historical Note

Virginia's first constitution was adopted in 1776. The constitution was revised in 1830, 1851, 1864, 1870 and 1902. The need for another revision was mandated to conform with new federal laws concerning civil rights and to loosen regulations on state-issued bonds and borrowing. A 1968 joint resolution by the Virginia General Assembly approved a commission to revise the constitution, and Governor Mills E. Godwin Jr. appointed the commission later that year. The commission proceeded to study the constitution for the rest of the year before undertaking the task of revising the constitution in 1969. The articles involved in this process were: Bill of Rights, Franchise, Division of Powers, Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, Local Government, Education, Corporations, Taxation and Finance, Conservation, and Future Changes. The original constitution greatly influenced the current version, and numerous parts remained unaltered in the revision. Approved by referendum, Completed in 1969 at Williamsburg, the revised constitution came into effect on July 1, 1971 and continues to be in use for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Undertaking the task of revising a constitution usually occurs no more than once a generation, which made the revision a significant occasion for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers associated with the 1971 revision of the Virginia Constitution. The commission revised the following articles in the constitution in 1969: Bill of Rights, Franchise, Division of Powers, Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, Local Government, Education, Corporations, Taxation and Finance, Conservation, and Future Changes. The collection contains materials associated with these articles as well as commission minutes and summaries of meetings, correspondence and memoranda, galley proofs, and drafts of the constitution. The majority of these materials have comments from the commission to other members about changes that needed to be made. The notes also include questions that needed to be addressed about the constitution and recommendations to better it. The principle documents are commentaries on the articles articles and reports of the various commission subcommittees.

Related Archival Materials

See the Albert L. Sturm Papers, Ms1988-019, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives. Sturm was a professor of political science at Virginia Tech and a noted expert on state constitutions

and constitutional revision.

Keywords

Virginia -- History

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection retains its original order, within the following categories: Final Revision, Minutes and Summaries of Action, Correspondence and Memoranda, Subcommittee Reports, and Commentary for Draft Constitution.

Description of Subordinate Components

Final Revision

Unit Date 1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Minutes and Summaries of Action

Unit Date 1968-1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence and Memoranda

Unit Date 1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Subcommittee Reports

Unit Date 1968

Bill of Rights Subcommittee

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Legislative and Judicial Subcommittee

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Local Government Subcommittee

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Executive and State Administration Subcommittee

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

General Physical Description note [3 folders]

Taxation and Finance Subcommittee

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Preliminary Draft Constitution

Unit Date 1968

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Galley Proofs

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 folders]

Commentary for Draft Constitution

Unit Date 1968, n.d.

Introductory Commentary

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Bill of Rights

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Franchise

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Division of Power

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Legislative

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Executive

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Judiciary**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Local Government****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Education****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Corporations****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Taxation****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Conservation****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Future Changes****box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)