

Fishback, Patricia, papers

Patricia Fishback papers

1973-2009

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 514

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/581

Unit Date

1973-2009

Language

English .

Creator

Fishback, Patricia D.

Extent

0.84 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Patricia Fishback in 2013.

Preferred Citation

Patricia Fishback papers, 1973-2009, Collection # M 514, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical Information

Patricia Fishback is a feminist activist who lobbied Virginia delegates on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Ratification Council. She also engaged as an active member of the League of Women Voters of Virginia and the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Born in Lexington, Virginia in 1940, Fishback became a teacher of mathematics in the Richmond area. She taught in Henrico County public schools as well as acted as a specialist instructor at the Mathematics and Science Center of Richmond. Additionally, she was a founding member of the Greater Richmond Council of Teachers of Mathematics in 1986 and served on the governing board of the Junior Academy Science from 1984 to 1990.

Fishback became involved with the Virginia Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council after its founding in 1974. The council was a coalition of women's rights groups, including NOW and the League of Women Voters, which lobbied politicians and led marches of the amendment's supporters throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. Fishback played an active role in the lobbying of politicians by writing letters and speeches on behalf of the council to urge delegates to support the ERA.

Fishback continues to advocate for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and women's rights in Virginia, remaining an active member of the League of Women Voters. She served as Coordinator of the Centennial Rally for Equal Rights in 2016 to commemorate the anniversary of suffragists beginning their protests in Virginia. She also spoke in support of the ERA at the Virginia Senate Rules Committee and the House Committee on Privileges and Elections in 2018.

Sources:

Patricia Davis Fishback, academic administrator, educator. ([Weblink](#))

League of Women Voters Biennial Convention - 2017. ([Article link](#))

Sullivan, Patricia. "Virginia's hopes of ERA ratification go down in flames this year." Washington Post, February 9, 2018. ([Article link](#))

Wilson, Patrick. "Women pack committee rooms demanding Virginia debate Equal Rights Amendment." Richmond Times-Dispatch, February 9, 2018. ([Article link](#))

Scope and Contents

The Patricia Fishback papers, 1973-2009, is a collection of feminist literature and materials used by Patricia Fishback during her career advocating for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the 1970s and 1980s. The materials consist of correspondence with state officials, news clippings, ERA promotional materials, and general feminist materials. The collection provides insight into the efforts of second-wave feminists in their fight to ratify the ERA in Virginia. The bulk of the collection is comprised of materials used by Fishback while working with the ERA Ratification Council. Included are ERA promotional materials such as pamphlets, flyers, bumper stickers, petitions, and buttons. Fishback's administrative files contain copies of the ERA Ratification Council's bylaws, membership lists, and selected meeting minutes from 1982 to 1989. Copies of winning submissions to the ERA Ratification Council's essay contest are also within the collection.

The correspondence is primarily between Fishback and Virginia members of Congress, requesting their support in upcoming votes for the ratification of the ERA on behalf of the ERA Ratification Council. Additional correspondents include other group representatives which made up the ERA Ratification Council such as the National Organization for Women.

The general feminist material in the collection consists of various handbooks regarding women's rights in Virginia and how the ERA would be able to improve and expand them. Guides, essays, and newsletters from organizations such as NOW explore the struggles women face daily and advocate for women to strive for meaningful change.

The news clippings include report of fluctuating support for the ERA in Virginia, as well as articles advocating for and against the proposed ratification. Other articles report on demonstrations across Virginia by ERA advocates. Also found in this collection are photographs of Fishback and other ERA supporters participating in protests and demonstrations in 1988.

Keywords

Women -- Political activity -- Virginia -- Richmond
Equal rights amendments -- Sources -- Virginia
Women political activists -- Virginia
Women's rights -- History -- 20th century -- Southern States
Virginia Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Description of Subordinate Components

Articles and Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60728

Unit Date 1973-2009

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

"Before Roe v. Wade" Essay Compilation

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60729

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60730

Unit Date 1982-1993

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Bumper Stickers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60731

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Legislative Resolution Proposals and Agendas

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60732

Unit Date 1982

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Legislative Reports

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60733

Unit Date 1982-1999

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Promotional Buttons

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60734

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Promotional Literature

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60735

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council Bylaws

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60736

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council Essay Contest Entries

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60737

Unit Date 1984-1987

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council Meeting Minutes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60738

Unit Date 1982-1989

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Council Membership and Executive Committee Lists

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60739

Unit Date 1980-1983

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Equal Rights Amendment Ratification Pamphlets and Flyers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60740

Unit Date 1982-1985

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Feminist Activism Handbooks and Guides

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60741

Unit Date 1974-1986

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

House of Delegates Equal Rights Amendment Voting Records

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60742

Unit Date 1982

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Mailings and Newsletters Regarding Equal Rights Amendment

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60743

Unit Date 1979-2007

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Petitions

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60744

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60745

Unit Date 1988, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Speeches and Statements

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/60746

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.