

**New Rochelle Public Library**

**League of Women Voters of New Rochelle Records**

**Title:** League of Women Voters of New Rochelle Records  
**Size:** 14.7 linear feet (17 boxes)  
**Dates:** 1925-2020 [bulk, 1945-2010]  
**Record Group:** Civic and Institutional Records  
**Access:** Unrestricted  
**Processed by:** David Rose, NRPL Archivist, February 2020

**Table of Contents**

**Historical Note.....p. 2**  
**Scope and Content.....pp. 2-3**  
**Provenance.....p. 3**  
**Series Description.....pp. 3-6**  
**Container List.....pp. 6-14**  
**Related Collections.....p. 14**

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## **Historical Note**

The earliest woman suffrage organization in New Rochelle was the Equal Franchise League of New Rochelle, founded in 1911, whose stated purpose was “to advance the rights of women, promote civic improvement, and secure the electoral franchise for women.” This mission became that of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, established in 1924 by a group of female activists at the home of Elizabeth Shepard Lough, who became its first president. The League benefitted from the leadership of Carrie Chapman Catt, whose close proximity as a resident of New Rochelle from 1928 led to her regular involvement in local activities. Mrs. Catt was most notable as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association which was instrumental in gaining women’s suffrage in the U.S. through passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Mrs. Catt had founded of the national League of Women Voters in 1920.

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle first involved its members in the issue of child labor and the passage of the Westchester County charter. In this, it cooperated closely with the League of Woman Voters of Westchester County and of New York State. With the formation of its Municipal Affairs Committee in 1932, the League began to involve its members and the public at large in advocating for civic improvements. After World War II, the League turned its focus to housing shortages, urban renewal, and educational reform. In the era of the civil rights movement and cold war of the 1960s, the League expanded its educational programs to include foreign affairs and the role of the United Nations. Despite this great breadth of scope, the League kept its pronouncements on political affairs on a strictly non-partisan platform in order to encourage voting and promote accurate information on political candidates in the electoral process. The League has continued to broaden channels of communication and guide public education about issues ranging from the Lincoln School desegregation case to nuclear power on Davids’ Island. In 1999, the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continues to be an essential leader in the civic life of New Rochelle.

## **Scope and Content**

The records of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle (LWVNR) consist of by-laws, meeting minutes, educational publications, committee reports, correspondence, scrapbooks, photography, and other audiovisual materials. A near-complete run of the League’s newsletter covers a half-century of League activities and programs. The records document the history of the League’s mission to educate the public about voting, voting rights, and the electoral process and to foster active participation in government. Most material covers the post-World War II period through the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, although one record book of board meeting minutes dates from 1935. A scrapbook collection of seven volumes provides a history of League community activities through news clippings, and a DVD collection of televised interviews features focused discussion on local political issues with legislators and educators. In addition, there is one 16mm

film, several videocassettes, audio cassette tape recordings, a box of small artifacts, and a set of proclamations and awards. There are also materials on the LWVNR in its relation to the League of Women Voters of Westchester County, of New York State, and the U.S.

## **Provenance**

The bulk of the collection was transferred to the Library prior to 2018 and was formally transferred by Deed of Gift in 2020. In addition, parts of the administrative records were transferred by Monica Gray, former LWVNR President, and Sydelle Herzberg, Treasurer, who also donated the scrapbook collection. Leona Newman, Recording Secretary and Chair of the League Archive Committee, transferred documents generated by the League in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including the board meeting minutes, 2002-2017. Ina Aronow, Publicity Director, transferred the digital recordings of televised interviews, and Joan Alexander, Vice President of Voter Service, helped to coordinate the entire transfer.

## **Series Description**

- Series 1: Administration
- Series 2: City Manager Government
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Programs
- Series 5: Publications
- Series 6: Photography
- Series 7: Audiovisual Materials
- Series 8: Artifacts
- Series 9: Record Book of Minutes
- Series 10: Scrapbooks
- Series 11: Proclamations and Awards

### **Series 1: Administration, 1939-2017**

**3.5 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

There are three boxes of administrative records relating to the operation, financing, and mission of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. The records include by-laws, meeting minutes and agendas of the board (26 files), treasurer, and various committees; president's annual report; as well as reports and printed literature on membership, public relations, legislative interviews, and programs. There are 11 files relating to publicity and three files of correspondence. See also Series 9: Record Book of Minutes for board meeting minutes contained in a bound volume prior to 1950.

### **Series 2: City Manager Government, 1954-1998**

**0.6 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

In 1991, the electorate of the City of New Rochelle voted on a charter revision put forward by the New Rochelle Charter Revision Commission on a proposal to change the city government from a manager-council structure to a strong-mayor structure. This series documents the political controversy surrounding that proposal, its history, and its aftermath. There are 19 files of material that include news clippings, brochures, records of meetings, reports, and League educational writings relating to the history of the “strong mayor vs. city manager” form of city government in New Rochelle.

**Series 3: Correspondence, 1983-2018**

**0.2 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

There are ten files of correspondence of League presidents and municipals agencies of New Rochelle. Correspondence is also located in Series 1: Administration; Series 2: City Manager Government; and Series 4: Programs.

**Series 4: Programs, 1953-2015**

**2.7 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

This series contains files on subjects selected by the LWVNR as study topics associated with League “unit meetings,” educational events, and public forums. In addition, there are files on an assortment of other programmatic issues and social events. Topics of local interest include apportionment and redistricting, city budget, court reform, Davids’ Island, educational referenda, school board, tax assessment, and urban renewal. There are three files on appointed vs. elected school boards. Topics of national and international interest include civil rights, Equal Rights Amendment, foreign affairs, and the United Nations. There are approximately two boxes of such programmatic materials. See also Series 2: City Manager Government.

**Series 5: Publications, 1936-2020**

**3.3 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

This series consists of printed literature in the form of brochures, pamphlets, and special reports of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle as well as periodical literature. There are approximately two boxes of materials, which include introductory brochures of the League, reports on political and social issues pertinent to the City of New Rochelle, and various publications of the League of Women Voters of Westchester County, New York State, the United States, and a selection of local Leagues. Subjects range from local housing, public schools, voting, and environmental issues to subjects national in scope such as Medicare, women’s issues, and foreign affairs. There are 13 files of the League *Bulletin*, 1949 to 2009. This newsletter was a monthly publication, often issued ten times annually, sometimes irregularly. The *Bulletin* is dated by month and year but with no assigned volume numbers; it was superseded by a new series entitled “News” in 2011. There is an incomplete run of local voter guides (1963-2019) that provide information on political candidates and election procedures. There are ten files of news clippings relating to League activities in New Rochelle. Notable historical publications include *Forty Years*

*of a Great Idea* (1960) by the League of Women Voters of the United States and *The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle: 75 Years of Making Democracy Work* (2000).

**Series 6: Photography, 1980-1999**

**0.1 linear feet. Organized alphabetically**

There are four files and one box of color snapshots and color slides of League events such as meetings, dinners, meetings, and anniversary commemorations. Many of the photos and photo sets lack caption information and dates. There are four envelopes of photographic negatives associated with the positive prints.

**Series 7: Audiovisual Materials, 2008-2018**

**0.9 linear feet. Organized by media type**

The bulk of the audiovisual materials consist of DVD recordings of televised interviews originally broadcast on Cablevision Channel 76 in Westchester County from 2008 to 2018. The DVDs are organized chronologically and numbered consecutively within each year. Each Cablevision interview features a local political figure, civic leader, educator, or activist speaking on contemporary topics relevant to the educational activities of the League of Women Voters, interviewed by Ina Aronow or others. An annual index of the recordings accompanies the DVDs. Some of the interview programs are also available on the video platform Vimeo. See also <http://www.watpa.org/lwv/newrochelle/index.html>. Other materials include videocassettes, cassette tape, and 16mm film.

**Series 8: Artifacts, c. 1980-c. 1999**

**0.9 linear feet. Organized by object type**

This series consists of one box of objects including rubber stamps, buttons, adhesive stickers, and a gavel with metal band inscribed "New Rochelle League of Women Voters / In Honor of Carrie Chapman Catt."

**Series 9: Record Book of Minutes, 1935-1950**

**1.1 linear feet. Single item**

A single record book of minutes, measuring 8" x 10.5", documents the earliest extant board meeting minutes of the LWVNR. Dated entries are in longhand through 1944; afterwards, the minutes are inserted as a typewritten paste-ins through 1950. The spine of the book is detached and missing. The record entries document the official business and regular activities of the LWVNR. See also Boxes 1 and 2, Series 1: Administration, for 26 files of board meeting minutes from 1945 to 2017.

**Series 10: Scrapbooks, 1925-1999**

**1.3 linear feet. Organized chronologically**

There are seven leatherette scrapbooks numbered I through VII and measuring 14" x 12" with news clippings that document the history of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. Most of the clippings are photocopies; in addition, there are some texts of speeches and printed literature relating to the League. As a set, the scrapbooks present a chronological documentation of the public history of the LWVNR through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. See also Box 8, Series 5: Publications, for ten files of loose news clippings.

**Series 11: Proclamations and Awards, 1965-2017**

**0.1 linear feet. Organized by size of document**

There are four files of proclamations, legislative resolutions, and community awards issued by the City of New Rochelle, New York State Assembly, and the League of Women Voters of New York State to the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle for outstanding accomplishments and anniversary events.

**Container List**

**Box 1            Series 1: Administration**

Action in the Community: Teacher's Education; 1964  
Annual meetings, 1953-1975  
Annual meetings, minutes, adopted programs; 1967-1982  
Annual reports to state and national, 1953-1975 (2 files)  
Annual reports to state and national, 1970-1984  
Budget, 1954-1985  
By-Laws, 1953-1982  
By-Laws review, 1988 [legal size file folder]  
Calendars and schedules, 1961-1982  
Community handbook, "New Rochelle;" 1968  
Correspondence, 1947-1984 (3 files)  
Correspondence, League of Women Voters U.S.; 1979-1980  
Corresponding secretary, 1978  
Finance, 1955-1980  
Fund-raising – Thea Eichler, 1992-1996  
League of Women Voters of New York State, 1987-1991  
League of Women Voters of New York State  
    Reports; 1986-1987  
    Action plans, 1987  
Legislative interviews, 1979-1992  
Luncheon, 1962-1968  
Minutes (20<sup>th</sup> century), 1945-2002 (3 of 11 files)

**Box 2            Series 1: Administration**

Minutes (20<sup>th</sup> century), 1945-2002 (8 of 11 files)  
Minutes (21<sup>st</sup> century), 2002-2017 (15 files)  
Membership, 1949-2000 (3 files)

**Box 3**            **Series 1: Administration**  
                      **Series 2: City Manager Government**

**Series 1: Administration**

Membership, committees; 1987-1994  
Municipal Housing Committee, 1995-1996  
Nominating Committee, 1957-1981  
Orientation, 1987  
Postal permit, 1984  
President's annual report, 1939-1985 (2 files)  
Program planning, 1968-1980  
Publications, 1951-1964  
Public relations, 1990-1996  
Publicity, 1942-1983 (11 files)  
Reports and membership, 1990-1992  
Selma Bernstein Award, 1966-1974  
Task Force on Groups and Associations, 1968-1979  
Treasurer, 1996  
Treasurer guidance, 1983-1987  
Treasurer's reports, 1960-1986 (2 files)  
Units (educational unit groups), 1952-1976  
Voter services, 1961-1983 (2 files)

**Series 2: City Manager Government**

Charter revision, 1991  
City manager, news clippings; 1968-1991  
Correspondence and reports, 1994-1998  
Council-Manager form of government, 1948-1978 (2 files)  
Council-Manager government episode, 1989  
Government survey, 1996  
Historical background to City Manager vs. Strong Mayor government, 1954-1968

**Box 4**            **Series 2: City Manager Government**  
                      **Series 3: Correspondence**  
                      **Series 4: Programs**

## **Series 2: City Manager Government**

Local government meeting, 1996  
Local government perception survey, 1996-1997  
Local government study, 1959-1974  
Local government reports and surveys, 1968-1997  
New Rochelle history, c. 1990  
Pamphlets, city charters and local government; 1973-1993  
Pamphlets, Council-Manager plan; 1966-1974  
Referendum, 1998  
Rensselaer County League, 1984-1992  
Research on districts, 1994  
Strong Mayor proposal (comparison with Evanston, IL), 1991-1994

## **Series 3: Correspondence**

Herzberg, Sydelle; 1983  
Herzberg, Sydelle; 1999-2003  
Idoni, Timothy; 1994-1995  
Naturalization ceremonies, 2016-2018  
New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority, 2016-2018  
Publicity, 1985-1986  
Ross, Phyllis; 1975-1976  
Screening Commission, Board of Education; 1991  
Various, nd  
Werblow, Elaine; 1995-1996

## **Series 4: Programs**

Alternatives to incarceration, 1991  
Anniversary (78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LWVNR), 2002  
Annual meetings, 2009-2015  
Appointed vs. elected school board, 1973-1982 (3 files)  
Apportionment, 1968-1982  
At-large vs district election of councilmen, 1969  
Awards ceremonies, 2015-2018  
Candidate's night – New Rochelle city elections, 1991  
Charter revision, 1991  
China-U.S. relations workshop, 1966-1968  
City budget, 1953-1979  
City court, 1956-1957  
Civil rights, 1963-1967  
Committee against Regressive Taxation, 1971  
Community action, 1967-1970  
Constitutional Convention (Con Con), 1996-1997



Court reform, 1966-1971  
Crime and drug study, 1973-1975  
Cross-endorsement, 1982-1983  
Davids' Island development, 1987  
Davids' Island update, 1971-1973  
D. C. petition drive, 1970  
Educational financing workshop, 1961-1969  
Educational referenda, 1949-1969 (1 of 2 files)

**Box 5            Series 4: Programs**

Educational referenda, 1949-1969 (2 of 2 files)  
Election law, 1963-1979  
Environmental quality, 1971-1978  
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 1970-1973  
Events and fund-raisers, 1986-2001  
Ferraro, Geraldine et al luncheon; 1997  
Financial structure of New Rochelle, 1967-1971  
Financial structure of school district, 1967-1972  
Financing education, NY State study; 1967-1974  
Foreign aid, 1969-1971  
Foreign policy, 1969-1971 (2 files)  
Foreign policy – China, 1967  
Foreign policy workshop (China), 1968  
Foreign trade, 1961-1962  
Forum for Candidates for County Legislature, 1995  
Fund raising, 1993-1997  
Gulker, Caryle; fund-raiser, 1998  
Health care policy, 1993  
History of the League of Women Voters, 1973-1994  
Hoctor, Thomas (city historian); 1997  
Housing, 1969-1970  
Housing Action Council, 1988  
Human resources, 1971  
Human services, 1971-1982  
Juvenile justice, 2015  
Laws re: credit, 1977-1979  
Legislative interviews, 1986  
Lincoln School, 1956-1960  
Local consensus positions, 1969-1981  
Medicare – public meeting on the future of Medicare, 1998  
National Women's Party, 1976  
Natural resources and bottle bill, 1975-1982  
New Rochelle Community Fund, 1994-1996

New Rochelle Department of Development, 1976-1978  
New Rochelle Public Library, 2003  
New York State Board, 1992  
Nuclear power, 1968-1977  
Observer corps, 1977  
Practical politics, 1953-1980  
Primary elections, 1960-1979  
Property assessment, 1979  
Property tax assessment, 1976-1979  
Public Housing Authorities Director's Association, 1996  
Public Library, 1966-1976

**Box 6**            **Series 4: Programs**  
                      **Series 5: Publications**

**Series 4: Programs**

Public policy on reproductive choice, 1993  
Public safety, 1978-1979  
Redistricting, 1968-1983  
Redistricting, 2010  
Revenue sharing, 1973  
School board candidates, 1992  
School board referendum, 1982  
School busing, 1970  
Selection of judges, 1965-1981  
Sirmans, Gail Wright (luncheon, civil rights); 1995  
Solid waste disposal, 1972-1980  
Tax assessment, 1973-1977  
Toxins in the home, 1991  
Transportation, 1975  
Trial jury consensus study, 1984-1986  
United Artists Cable of Westchester (TCI Co.), 1992-1996  
United Nations field trip, 1966  
Urban renewal, 1958-1977  
Voter's service kit, 1976-1979  
Water resources, 1958  
Welfare reform, 1970-1972  
Wetcop elections, 1980  
Women and the law, 1980-1983  
Women and Mortgage Credit Project, 1979-1980 (2 files)  
Women Who Run – forum on seeking public office, 1998

**Series 5: Publications**

Bulletin (League of Women Voters of NR newsletter), 1949-2009 (9 of 13 files)

**Box 7            Series 5: Publications**

Bulletin (League of Women Voters of NR newsletter), 1949-2009 (4 of 13 files)  
Citizen action, 1985-1992  
Citizen action in legislation, 1996-1998  
City Manager's Special Objectives, City of New Rochelle; 1978  
Comprehensive Plan, City of New Rochelle, Department of Development; 1995  
Conflict management workshop kit, 1992  
Creating Communities of Inclusion, 1998  
Directory of Officials for Westchester County, 1988-1999  
Directory of Officials for Westchester County, 2016-2019  
Discussion training manual, 1982  
District maps, 1976  
Domestic violence resource kit, c. 1995  
Do You Know the ABC's of Your Town's Government?; 1963  
Education, 1992-1995  
Election and library brochures, 2008-2013  
Equal Rights Amendment campaign kit, 1975  
Foreign affairs and national security, 1987-1988  
Forty Year of a Great Idea, 1960  
The Garbage Primer, 1992  
Governments at the Crossroads: Re-Engineering Westchester County for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 1993  
Hazardous Waste Information Focus on New York State, 1986  
History of the League of Women Voters, 1945-1950  
Housing Action in Westchester County: A Plan of Action, 1991  
Impact on Issues in New York State, 1995  
Initiative and Referendum: A Choice for New York State, 1977  
League of Women Voters, 1986-1994  
League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, 1972-2003 (2 files)  
League and New Rochelle, 1992-2013  
League of Women Voters Education Fund, 1988  
League of Women Voters Education Fund, Guide to League-sponsored Debates, 1987  
League of Women Voters of New York State, 1980-1996  
League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, 2018-2020  
League of Women Voters of New York State, legislative agenda; 2016-2019  
League of Women Voters, national materials; 1994-2017  
League of Women Voters of Syracuse, New York; 1994-1996  
League of Women Voters of Westchester Convention, 2010  
League of Women Voters of Westchester County, 1990-2017  
League of Women Voters of Westchester, Interleague Directory; 2014-2020

**Box 8**            **Series 5: Publications**  
**Series 6: Photography**

**Series 5: Publications**

League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary journal et al, 1994  
Media, 1972-1981  
Medicare, 1998-1999  
National Voter; Report from the Hill, 1986-1987  
National Voter Registration Act, 1994  
New Rochelle, 1984-1986  
New Rochelle Department of Development, 1972-1978  
New Rochelle: A Handbook, 1989  
New Rochelle schools, 1961-1971  
New York State Convention, 2005  
New York State Voter, 1999-2003  
News (new series), 2011-2019  
News clippings, 1936-2003 (10 files)  
Nuclear power and radioactivity, 1979-1990  
The People's Convention (NYS Constitutional Convention), 2017  
Planning calendar for local Leagues, 1994  
Political action in New York State, 1974-1999  
Report on city planning, 1967  
The Road to Change: A Local Program Handbook, 1983  
Road to the Voting Booth, 1985  
Stationery, nd  
Voter guides, 1963-2019 (2 files)  
Voter registration placards, nd [legal size file folder]  
Water and environment,  
We Hold These Truths: A Celebration of Freedom, 1991  
Westchester County budget, 1994  
Women's issues,  
Women's rights and history, 1984-2000

**Series 6: Photography**

Historical timelines, nd  
Seventieth (70<sup>th</sup>) anniversary, 1994  
Seventy-fifth (75<sup>th</sup>) anniversary, 1999  
Women and credit study; selection of judge study; 1980-1981

**Box 9**            **Series 7: Audiovisual Materials**

DVDs, 2008-2016

**Box 10            Series 7: Audiovisual Materials**

DVDs, 2017-2018

Film, 16mm; Women and Mortgage Credit, nd

Cassette tape recording, Medicare Forum PSA; nd

Cassette tape recording, WVOX radio; 1998

Videocassettes

History of the College of New Rochelle

Immigration law

Medicare meeting; 1998 (with floppy disk)

Staging League Debates; 1987

78<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner; 2002

**Box 11            Series 6: Photography**

League, 1992 (2)

League, 1994 (2)

70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (8)

Annual luncheon, 1996 (7)

Historical photo reproductions

Sydelle Herzberg and Joyce Whalen

Lorraine Werblow, 1999

Seneca Falls, NY 1998

Election reform meeting, 2004 (7)

Event with George Latimer (6)

Events and meetings (14)

Negatives (4)

Color slides

LWVNR history and events

New Rochelle locations (5)

**Box 12            Series 8: Artifacts**

Rubber stamps (8)

Buttons (17)

Wooden gavel with inscription "New Rochelle League of Women Voters / In Honor of  
Carrie Chapman Catt" nd

Adhesive stickers, National Voter Registration Day

**Box 13          Series 9: Record Book of Minutes**

Record Book of Minutes, 1935-1950

**Box 14          Series 10: Scrapbooks**

Volume I, 1925-1942  
Volume II, 1943-1952

**Box 15          Series 10: Scrapbooks**

Volume III, 1953-1958  
Volume IV, 1959-1963

**Box 16          Series 10: Scrapbooks**

Volume V, 1964-1971  
Volume VI, 1972-1983

**Box 17          Series 10: Scrapbooks  
Series 11: Proclamations and Awards**

**Series 10: Scrapbooks**

Volume VII, 1984-1999

**Series 11: Proclamations and Awards**

Awards, 1980-1995  
Legislative resolutions, NY State; 1982-1984  
Commendations, City of New Rochelle; 1974-2017  
Proclamations, 1965-1994

**Related Collections**

[New Rochelle Public Library](#)

New Rochelle Public Library Records

Westchester County Archives

Elizabeth Shepard Lough Papers, Commission on Government, 1914-1937

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