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Collection 625
County, State and National Politics and Politicians Collection
1848-2020

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Updated by Chris Loos, January 2024

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of various items related to elected positions on city, county, state and national levels. Most of these items were found in a box marked “politics” and in random order. It is assumed that these items were gathered from other sources such as various persons’ papers or family collections sometime prior to 2015.

The collection will be of interest to those researching both the winners and losers of various political races. Dates range from as early as 1848 through to 2020, with the majority of items dating from the mid-20th century. Folders are arranged by various levels of government. Note that items from municipal politics may be found in the Trenton Elections and Politics Collection (CITY-ELEC). That collection also houses oversized items from this one, including large posters and ballots. See that finding aid for further information.

Series Description

Series 1. County of Mercer

This series contains one folder of political ephemera related to elected positions such as Freeholder, Clerk, Sheriff, Committeeman, and Assemblyman. Items are mostly campaign cards, flyers, letters, and programs for dinners. Of note is a poster for African-American Jim Mitchell for Freeholder (n.d.) and a campaign pamphlet containing several Republican and Democratic candidate ads (1921).

Series 2. State of New Jersey

This series contains four folders of items related to elected positions to the state senate and assembly. Other material includes biographical sketches and lists of state officials, as well as material related to the state Democratic and Republican committees. Of note are a list of officers and members of the 72nd Legislature, convened 11 January 1848 (in CITY-ELEC box OS2); an essay “What the Bicentennial Means to the Sons of the Columbus” by Frank A. Langella, Sr., father of the actor of the same name and permanent chairman of the Sons of Columbus Committee (1959); biographical sketches of the Assembly in 1754 (1895); biographies of delegates of the Constitutional Convention (1947); a ticket to the state convention at the Taylor Opera House (1908); a handbook for use in Schools for Democrats (1959); and The Weekly Bulletin of the Republican Committee (1915).

Series 3. United States of America

This series contains six folders of material. Three folders contain newsletters from New Jersey’s congressmen--one of the items from Senator Harrison Williams, another with material from Representative Frank Thompson, and a third with letters and ephemera from Senator Clifford Case, Senator Bill Bradley, and Representative Chris Smith. The fourth folder includes information related to other candidates for Congress, while the fifth and sixth pertain to U.S. Presidents and Presidential candidates. Of note is an anti-Frank Thompson flyer with a cartoon of “Thompson” with his foot on the head of Adam Clayton Powell, holding a bundle stating “Negro Vote in the Bag” with “Wallace,” “Sparkman”, “Faubus”, and “Ellender” as shadows looking on. A booklet promoting the first Republican ticket of John C. Frémont and William L. Dayton (1856) also deserves mention.

Series 4. Election Administration

This series comprises three folders and one oversized box, and covers affidavits, ballots, election returns, and other items pertaining to the administration of elections. Of note are various ballots from the 1880s through the 1950s, the earliest of which had been glued into a (now lost) scrapbook from an unknown author. This series also includes information on the voting procedures in New Jersey for the 2020 election, conducted during the pandemic.

Series 5. Artifacts

This series contains buttons, pins, and other artifacts from political campaigns. Of note is a Carter/Mondale pin, a matchbook opposing the reelection of governor Jim Florio, and a fountain pen that governor Richard Meyner used to sign an unknown bill into law.

Container List

Box / Folder / Contents

Series 1. County of Mercer

1 / 1 / Political ephemera

Series 2. State of New Jersey

1 / 2 / Political ephemera

1 / 3 / Reports and statistics

1 / 4 / Democratic State Committee

1 / 5 / Republican State Committee

1 / 6 / Biographical sketches and lists

Series 3. United States

1 / 7 / Senator Harrison Williams--Newsletters and reports

1 / 8 / Representative Frank Thompson--Newsletters, ephemera, etc.

1 / 9 / Clifford Case (Sen.), Bill Bradley (Sen.), and Chris Smith (Rep.)--Newsletters, reports, etc.

1 / 10 / Other House/Senate candidates

1 / 11 / Presidential campaign ephemera (unsuccessful)

1 / 12 / Presidential campaign ephemera (successful)

Series 4. Election Administration

1 / 13 / Election administration--Affidavits, permits, etc.

1 / 14 / Ballots--1880s-1890s; 1911; 1923-1927; 1929-1931; 1935-1936; 1938-1939; 1941-1943;
1945; 1947; 1949-1951; 2020

1 / 15 / Election returns (filled and blank), 1907; 1914; 1946-1948; 1950; 1952-1954; 1957; 1963;
1965; 1967; 1972; 1975; 1988

OS1 / Election returns, 1944-1946; 1957-1979

Series 5. Artifacts

A1 / Buttons, pins, pens, and other artifacts