



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608  
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**Trenton Elections and Politics Collection**  
**Circa 1870–2022 (bulk circa 1911-1990)**

**By Chris Loos**  
**January 2024**

**Summary Information**

**Creator(s):**

City of Trenton; Thaddeus Burns (compiler, circa 1940s-1950s)

**Donor:**

Unknown (found in collections)

**Language of Materials:**

English, with some items in Spanish

**Extent:**

Approximately 6 linear feet

**Location of Repository:**

Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ  
08608

**Subjects:**

Advertising, Political / African American mayors--New Jersey--Trenton / African Americans--New Jersey--Politics and government / City & town halls--New Jersey--Trenton / Election districts--New Jersey--Trenton--Maps / Government facilities--New Jersey--Trenton / Holland, Arthur John (1918-1989) / Local elections--New Jersey / Mayors--Legal status, laws, etc.--New Jersey / Mayors--New Jersey--Trenton--Elections / Municipal charters--New Jersey /

Municipal government--Corrupt practices / Municipal government--New Jersey--Trenton / Municipal government by city manager / Municipal government by commission / Municipal home rule--New Jersey--Trenton / Municipal incorporation--New Jersey / Municipal law--New Jersey / Petitions--New Jersey--Trenton / Political action committees--New Jersey / Political campaigns--New Jersey--Trenton / Political candidates--New Jersey--Trenton / Politics & government--New Jersey / State-local relations--New Jersey / Trenton (N.J.)--Administrative and political divisions / Trenton (N.J.)--History / Trenton (N.J.)--Politics and government

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Conditions Governing Access:**

No access restrictions.

#### **Reference Number:**

CITY—ELEC

#### **Preferred Citation:**

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Trenton Elections and Politics Collection, Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ 08608

### **Scope/Content**

This collection contains materials relating to the City of Trenton's municipal elections and politics. It includes documents from the management and administration of such elections, including voter rolls, election districts, ballots, and returns. These items also include publicity and similar material from candidates' election campaigns, both failed and successful. Finally, the collection contains several petitions submitted by Trenton citizens to the city council.

*Archivist's Note:* Like with all collections within the Trenton City Records, these items have been compiled from various locations within the Trentoniana Department and arranged *ad hoc*. Many of the documents likely came from the Arthur Holland Collection, having been removed from their original locations by prior librarians. This archivist has imposed the order below on these materials and has arranged the items in

each folder approximately chronologically. Note as well that this collection generally does *not* cover politics beyond the municipal level; such materials can instead be found in the County, State, and National Politics Collection (No. 625). However, because the city and county clerks both handle elections, some necessary overlaps exist. As a broad rule, ballots are included in this collection if they include candidates for offices at the municipal level, such as mayor, city council, justice of the peace, and constable. Furthermore, oversized items in both collections share oversized boxes--where this commingling occurs, it is clearly marked. The varying dimensions of ballots and other oversized documents have affected which boxes they are stored in; for clarity, these folders include a list of what years appear within. Finally, as with the Trenton Administration Collection, political ephemera from certain mayors with enough surviving material (namely Arthur Holland, Carmen Armenti, and Frederick Donnelly), are included in their own collections.

*[See also: The Trenton Administration Collection; Scrapbooks SB 47, 269-274, and 287 (by city commissioner George Reiker, all part of the Parks and Recreation Collection).]*

## **Arrangement**

### **Series I: Elections--Districts, Voter Rolls, and Other Administrative**

- Box 1, Folder 1: 1911 Elections--Dates; notice-posting agreements
- Folder 2: 1911 Elections--Nomination acceptance letters (city commission)
- Folder 3: 1911 Elections--Letters to city clerk appointing campaign manager (self)
- Folder 4: 1911 Elections--Letters to city clerk appointing campaign managers (others)
- Folder 5: 1911 Elections--Other letters to city clerk; Clerk's list of candidates and paid fees (in blank poll book)
- Folder 6: 1917 Elections--Letters to city clerk accepting nomination/election and listing expenses (county councils, constable, justice of the peace, etc.)

Folder 7: 1917 Elections--Other (affidavits re: sample ballots; certificates of registered voters)

Folder 8: 1925 Redistricting--Council resolution, correspondence, report with notes (see also Map Case 1, Drawer #)

Folder 9: Redistricting--Reports and miscellaneous correspondence (1961; 1981) (see also Map Case 1, Drawer #)

Folder 10: Other city clerk records--Sample affidavit/acceptance letters, candidate lists, polling places, etc. (1890s; 1935; 1959; 1966; 1974; 1978; 1982; 1988; 1990)

Folder 11: Council testimony re: alleged ballot box tampering (1886)

Unfolded: *Report of the City Elections Study Panel to the Trenton Democratic Committee on Partisan and Nonpartisan Municipal Elections* (1976)

Box OS1, Folder 1: Municipal election notice (1911)

Folder 2: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Election notices, 1942-1947

Folder 3: Election ward map with list of council candidates (1962) (see also Map Case 1, Drawer #)

Folder 4: City voter rolls (incomplete) (1913; 1964)

## **Series II: Elections--Ballots and Returns**

Box 1, Folder 12: Ballots--Municipal and county/state/national with municipal offices (1890; 1898; 1904; 1907-1908; 1911; 1915; 1919-1920; 1923; 1927; 1935; 1939; 1943; 1947; 1966; 1982 and 1990 [newsprint]; 2022-2023)

Folder 13: Municipal and general election returns (see also box OS1) (1911; 1939-1959; 1951; 1962; 1966; 1970; 1972; 1974; 1978; 1982; 1986)

Box OS1, Folder 4: Municipal elections--Sample and official ballots (up to 21" x 25"), 1916-1978 (1916-1917; 1920; 1922-1924; 1926-1927; 1931-1932; 1934-1935; 1939-1940; 1960; 1962; 1978)

Folder 5: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Sample and official ballots (up to 21" x 25"), 1912-1936 (1912; 1916; 1920-1921; 1924; 1927-1928; 1931-1934; 1936)

Folder 6: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Sample and official ballots, 1937-1980 (1937; 1939-1940; 1942-1945; 1947-1949; 1952; 1957-1961; 1980)

Folder 7: Municipal elections--Vote tallies (1898; 1947; 1951; 1959)

Box OS2, Folder 1: Municipal elections--Sample and official ballots--Oversized (up to 17" x 21.5") (1911-1914; 1917-1919; 1924; 1926; 2023)

Folder 2: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Sample and official ballots (1912-1921; 1924-1927; 1929; 1933-1934; 1943-1944; 1946; 1950-1958; 1962; 1966-1967; 2018)

### **Series III: Politics and Political Ephemera**

Box 2, Folder 1: Political ephemera--City Council, numbered wards (pre-1961)

Folder 2: Political ephemera--City Council, North Ward

Folder 3: Political ephemera--City Council, South Ward

Folder 4: Political ephemera--City Council, East Ward

Folder 5: Political ephemera--City Council, West Ward

Folder 6: Political ephemera--City Council, At-Large

Folder 7: Political ephemera--City Commissioners

Folder 8: Political ephemera--Mayors--Donal Connolly

Folder 9: Political ephemera--Mayors--Doug Palmer (also includes 1993 campaign finance docs)

Folder 10: Political ephemera--Mayors--Tony Mack/George Muschal/Eric Jackson

Folder 11: Political ephemera--Mayors--Reed Gusciora (2018; 2022)

Folder 12: Political ephemera--Mayoral candidates--S. Louis "Lou" Belli (1970)

Folder 13: Political ephemera--Mayoral candidates--Eugene V. "Gene" Howard (1978)

Folder 14: Political ephemera--Mayoral candidates--Additional candidates

Folder 15: Political ephemera--Other and unknown offices

Folder 16: Political ephemera--Forms of government (commission; city manager; charter study)

Folder 17: Political ephemera--Other issues (Prohibition; TWW sale; affirmative action; Marine Terminal)

Folder 18: Political ephemera--PACs and similar groups--Citizens' Action Committee (CAC) (also includes administrative materials, newsletters, etc.)

Folder 19: Political ephemera--PACs and similar groups--Trenton Matters (2022-2023)

Box OS1, Folder 8: Municipal political ephemera--Oversized (up to 21" x 25"), newsprint (1942)

Folder 9: Municipal political ephemera--Oversized (up to 21" x 25") (various years)

Box OS2, Folder 3: Municipal elections--Political ephemera (to 17" x 21.5")

Folder 4: Municipal elections--Political ephemera on newsprint (includes publicity; non-partisan profiles; campaign newspapers)

Folder 5: Other political newspapers--Reactionaries (1964; 1971)

Folder 6: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Oversized newsprint

Folder 7: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Oversized

Folder 8: County/State/National politics (Coll. 625)--Officers and Members of the 72<sup>nd</sup> State Legislature (1849)

Box A1: Political buttons/pins and other artifacts

#### **Series IV: Petitions and Polls**

Box 3, Folders 1-5: Petition for Commission Government (1911)

Folder 6: Other petitions (see also boxes OS1, OS2, and OS3)

Box 4, Folder 1: Public opinion survey, January 1955

Folder 2: Public opinion survey, March 1955

Folder 3: Public opinion survey (blank), February 1970

Folder 4: Public opinion survey (data sheet), April 1982

Box OS3, unfolded: Petition for prohibiting the sale of alcohol in Trenton, 1918

Unfoldered: Petition (blank) to create the Trenton Marine Terminal, 1928

Unfoldered: Petition to “Save Community Schools” (United Progress,  
Inc.), 1969

Box OS4, Unfoldered: Anti-Sunday movies campaign petition, 1921