Finding Aid

Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League, 1960-
0.4 linear feet (in 1 standard legal-size box)

Acc. No. 97-1

Xavier University Library
University Archives and Special Collections Division

Organization: Irwin Lachoff
Revised May 1995

Historical Note

The Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League, organized in 1958 and chartered in 1960, is the oldest surviving black political and civic organization in New Orleans's Ninth Ward. The League seeks to improve the physical, civic, and political conditions in the Ninth Ward through voter education and registration, political endorsements, and lobbying for better conditions.


Realizing that civic betterment is not possible without political involvement, the League's primarily mission remains politics. The League regularly petitioned the Mayor, City Council, and the New Orleans Streets Department for street improvements to Claiborne Avenue, Poland Avenue, Tennessee, Fulton, and other streets in the area. It fought for increased garbage collection in the Ninth Ward and petitioned the Sewerage and Water Board for drainage improvements. The League also opposed the building of a new Mississippi River bridge in Uptown New Orleans.

Through the political process the League sought to improve the social and economic conditions of the Ninth Ward by sponsoring urban renewal and anti-poverty programs. Annually the League reminded the Mayor and City Council of the need to provide summer jobs for Ninth Ward youth. The League sought increases in education by proposing cuts in other budgets and lobbied the Orleans Parish School Board to fund Special Education programs sufficiently. They conducted educational programs to inform the elderly about Social Security and other programs for the aged.

The League regularly addressed claims of brutality within the New Orleans Police Department. In 1981 the League called for the creation of the Civilian Police Review Board and in 1983 favored the creation of the Office of Municipal Investigation.

In national politics the League urged the appointment of a black person to fill the vacancy for a Federal District Judgeship in Louisiana. It objected to support by U. S. Representative Gillis Long of Louisiana and U. S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston's for President Ronald Reagan's invasion of Grenada. The League urged Senator John Breaux of Louisiana and Senator Johnston to reject President Reagan's appointment of Robert Bork to the United States Supreme Court. Senator Johnston voiced his support for the creation of a holiday commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and, at the request of Richard Bozeman, nominated candidates to the United States Military Academy and the Air Force Academy.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists primarily of correspondence, records, and flyers of the Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League. Also included are position papers, flyers, clippings, sample ballots, and photographs relating to or collected by members of the League. The collection reflects the League's major interest of politics and neighborhood improvement. The League maintained a steady correspondence with state and local politicians, such as Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards, New Orleans Mayors Maurice "Moon" Landrieu and Ernest "Dutch" Morial, numerous New Orleans City Councilmen and Louisiana Legislators, as well as U. S. Senators Russell Long, John Breaux, and, especially, J. Bennett Johnston. Subject matter includes local and national politics, street improvements, and concerns over economic and social conditions in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. There are two series contained herein.

Series I
The first series is comprised of the material directly related to the Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League. There are five subseries as follows:

This subseries chronologically organizes League correspondence.

1/1* Correspondence, 1966-1972, including:
to New Orleans City Councilman Philip C. Ciaccio, August 29, 1967
from Sherman N. Copelin, Jr., assistant to the Director, City of New Orleans,
Ninth Ward Rehabilitation Survey, April 30, 1968
from Victor H. Schiro, Mayor of New Orleans, May 20, 1968

to William Guste, candidate for Mayor of New Orleans, on League's decision to
support Moon Landrieu for Mayor, October 10, 1969

to Maurice Landrieu, informing him of League's endorsement for Mayor of
New Orleans, October 10, 1969

to Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League membership, voicing opposition to a new
Mississippi River bridge being built uptown, May 23, 1970

to Richard Boseman from Mayor Moon Landrieu, informing Boseman of his
appointment to New Orleans City Welfare Board, 1970

from Nat Kiefer, Louisiana State legislator, asking for the organization's
endorsement, July 15, 1971

1/2 Correspondence, 1973-1974, including:
to Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards regarding judicial appointment for
Freddie Warren, October 23, 1973
from Mayor Landrieu, March 28, 1974

to Boseman, announcing his appointment to the Parkway and Park
Commission, March 1974

to Mayor Landrieu, concerning summer jobs program, May 19, 1974

to Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League membership, supporting Pascal Calagero
for seat on the Louisiana Supreme Court and Peter Beer for seat on the
Louisiana Court of Appeals, August 1974

*Box 1, Folder 1

Scope and Content Note (continued)

1/3 Correspondence, 1975-1976, including:
to New Orleans Councilman James Moreau, February 17, 1975
to Lloyd Rittiner, President, Orleans Parish School Board, concerning
continuation of plan for 50 percent black and 50 percent white teachers,
February 21, 1975
to U. S. Senator Russell Long, regarding unemployement of black
teenagers, March 1, 1975
to President Gerald Ford from Senators Long and Johnston, supporting the
appointment of a black person to a Federal District Judgeship in
Louisiana, May 15, 1975
to William J. Jefferson, Assistant to Senator Johnston, May 22, 1975
to Boseman from Mayor Landrieu, informing Boseman of his appointment as
poll commissioner and responsibilities as such, October 24, 1975
to Boseman from Mayor Landrieu, informing Boseman of his appointment to
the New Orleans Charter Revision Committee, October 29, 1975
to the Federal Communications Commission from Senator Johnston, regarding
the hearing impaired, February 24, 1976
to Boseman from Mayor Moon Landrieu, informing Boseman of his appointment
to the Manpower Advisory Planning Council, February 24, 1976

1/4 Correspondence, 1977-1978, including:
to Governor Edwards from Ninth Ward League regarding the creation
of a disaster evacuation route for the Ninth Ward, January 1977
from Louisiana State Representative Richard A. Tony, March 12, 1977
from Judge "Dutch" Morial, thanking League for its support in his successful
campaign for Mayor of New Orleans, October 28, 1977
to Boseman from Mayor Landrieu, appointing Boseman a member of the
City Welfare Board, November 7, 1977
from Mayor Morial, thanking organization for its support during mayoral
campaign, March 22, 1978
from Representative Gillis Long, July 28, 1978

1/5 Correspondence, 1979-1982, including:
to Representatives Gillis Long and Robert Livingston, regarding proposed
budget cuts and their affect, on Xavier University, April 8, 1981
from Representative Livingston, explaining his position on proposed budget
cuts, May 21, 1981

1/6 Correspondence, 1983, including:
to Mayor Morial from Petr Spurney, President, Louisiana World Exposition,
regarding the World's Fair and minority employment, February 14, 1983
to Ninth Ward League membership, supporting the creation of the Office of
Municipal Investigation, February 1983
from Representative Long and Senator Johnston, supporting President
Reagan's Grenada intervention, 1983
from Senator Johnston, supporting a day honoring Dr. King, October 1983

Scope and Content Note (continued)

1/7  Correspondence, 1984-1985, including:
to Boseman from Senator Johnston, concerning an appointment to West Point, April 1985
to Boseman, announcing his appointment to the New Orleans City Planning Commission, November 1985

1/8  Correspondence, 1986-1988, including:
to Boseman from Senator Johnston, nominating Boseman's nephew to United States Military Academy, February 3, 1986 from Senator-Elect John Breaux, thanking organization for its support, December 1, 1986
to Senators Johnston and Breaux, asking them to reject Robert Bork's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court, July 8, 1987
to Federal Bureau of Investigation, from Carl Galmon complaining of election irregularities, July 7, 1988 from F.B.I. and the Department of Justice responding to Galmon's complaints, August 8, 1988

1/9  Correspondence, 1989-1991, including:
to New Orleans Councilwoman Jacqueline Clarkson from Richard Boseman expressing his "absolute disgust" with the system of traffic violation payments, November 27, 1991

1/10 Correspondence, 1992-1995, including:
to Senator Johnston from Boseman, regarding an appointment to the U. S. Air Force Academy, October 27, 1992
to Senator Johnston from Boseman, regarding appointment of Boseman's brother as U. S. Marshall, November 16, 1992
to Boseman from Senator Johnston, nominating his nephew to the U. S. Air Force Academy, January 28, 1993

Subseries B: Internal Records; 1960-1990 and n.d., including:
1/11 Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League Articles of Incorporation (1960), policy statements (1970), a prospectus (ca. 1970), report of receipt and disbursement (1990), and two membership lists (n.d.)

Subseries C: Flyers; 1970-1990 and n.d., including:
1/12 financial aid to public schools (1970), position papers (ca. 1973), Boseman's resume (ca. 1973), League Committee proposals (1973), election expense reports (1995), and League announcements (n.d.)

Scope and Content Note (concluded)

Subseries D: Sample Ballots, 1972-1987 and n.d. (27 items)
1/13

Subseries E: Photographs (unidentified) n.d. (8 items)
1/14

Series II
Subseries A: Collected items, 1972-1987 and n.d. There are four subseries as follows:
1/15 New Orleans Black Forum: Statement of Purpose (1973), a comparison of black and white voting patterns in the 1977 New Orleans Mayor's race (1974), and the Congressional Record; Senator Johnston supporting the creation of a holiday celebrating the life of Dr. King (October 3, 1983)

Subseries B: Flyers, 1962-1992 and n.d., including:
1/16 "A Reception at City Hall": [Rev. Avery Alexander being dragged down stairs at City Hall], ca. 1962
"Model City Planning in New Orleans," April 1970
Flyer "SOUL or Sold," regarding selling votes to Sam Bell, n.d.
A Service of Worship and Thanksgiving For The Life of Mr. Howard Jacob Turner, Jr., November 12, 1991

Subseries C: Periodicals, 1982-1986, including:

Subseries D: Press Clippings, 1941-1985 and n.d., including the following New Orleans papers:
Time, essay, 1976
Figaro, 1979. (2 items)
This Week at Xavier, November 2, 1982

Container List

Series I  

Folders 1-10  
Folder 11  
Folder 12  
Folder 13  
Folder 14  
Subseries F:  Photographs, n.d.

Series II  
Collected items, 1972-1987 and n.d.

Folder 15  
Folder 16  
Subseries B:  Flyers, n.d.
Folder 17  
Subseries C:  Periodicals, 1982-1986
Folder 18  
Subseries D:  Press clippings, 1941-1985 and n.d.