

**Rainbow Coalition of Vermont
Records, 1984-1991
Doc 454, MSA 212, Size D**

Introduction

This collection consists of the records of the Rainbow Coalition of Vermont, 1984-1991, a progressive political organization that worked within and outside the Vermont Democratic Party to elect candidates and increase voter participation. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Mary Deaett of the Rainbow Coalition in 1992 (ms. acc. no. 92.5). The collection is housed in one document storage box, one archival flip-top box, and one oversized folder; it occupies 1.5 linear feet of shelf space.

Agency History

The Rainbow Coalition was organized in 1984 during Jesse Jackson's first run for president. It brought together progressive political activists from throughout the state to support Jackson and his platform. In the elections of 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990 the Rainbow Coalition supported both Democratic and independent candidates in legislative and state races, and worked inside and outside of the Vermont Democratic Party to advance progressive positions on a variety of issues.

The Rainbow Coalition was closely affiliated with the Progressive Coalition of Burlington, Vermont. Bernard Sanders, a member of the Progressive Coalition, had been elected mayor of Burlington in 1981. In 1988 he ran for Vermont's lone seat in the U. S. Congress as a member the Progressive Coalition with support from the Rainbow Coalition. Sanders lost that year to Peter Smith. Two years Sanders defeated Smith to win the Congressional seat.

By 1992, the Rainbow Coalition formally merged with the Progressive Coalition to establish a statewide electoral organization, devoted exclusively to supporting progressive candidates running outside of the major parties. In 1999 the Progressive Coalition organized itself as a political party under Vermont's election laws.

Scope and Content

The records are primarily focused around the 1988 elections. There are extensive newspaper clippings about Rainbow Coalition activities, donor support, position papers and voting records from the Vermont Legislature. Also included are materials used in the decision-making process as the Coalition decided which candidates to endorse, records of presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's 1988 visit to Vermont, and the Vermont Democratic Party caucuses and state convention in 1988.

Organization

The contents of the folders in this collection are, for the most part, as their creators established them. Likewise, the Rainbow Coalition's office staff established the folder headings. The order of the folders, however, have been altered somewhat to move similar materials next to each other. The series have been established by the VHS to aid users of the collection. All newspaper clippings have been photocopied to ensure their longevity. A few newspaper supplements have been kept in their original format in a Size D folder. Four photographs are stored in Doc 454:51.

Related Collections

Two Jesse Jackson bumper stickers have been placed in the Vermont Historical Society's bumper sticker collection (Stick 397 and Stick 398).

Inventory

I. Organization of Rainbow Coalition

- Doc 454:1 Bylaws
- 2 Rainbow Coalition/Progressive Coalition Bylaws
- 3 Job Description

II. Funding

- 4 National Donor Lists
- 5 List of Financial Supporters, 1984
- 6 List of Supporters, 1984 and 1988
- 7 Funding Appeal Local Races, 1988

III. Rainbow Coalition Promotion and Development

- 8 Brochure
- 9 Membership Events/Promotions

IV. Voting Records

- 10 1986 Vermont Legislature Roll Call Votes
- 11 1986 Vermont House Voting Records: Addison, Caledonia Counties
- 12 _____, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin Counties
- 13 _____, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange Counties
- 14 _____, Rutland, Washington Counties
- 15 _____, Windham, Windsor Counties
- 16 _____, Bill H. 779-1988

V. Candidate Endorsement and Assistance

- 17 Interview Sheets with Congressional Candidates
- 18 Endorsing Groups
- Doc 454:19 Endorsement Material-1988; Second and Third Rounds

- 20 Endorsement Material-Plans-Congressional Candidates
- 21 Instructions for Candidates for Town Office

VI. Races

- 22 Races Working Support, 1986
- 23 Races-Sample Summary
- 24 Active Races, 1986-1988
- 25 Races-Voting Records-1986
- 26 Rainbow Coalition of Vermont Vote Totals, 1988
- 27 Calais and Middlesex Voter Checklists, 1986
- Size D Candidate newspaper inserts, 1986
 - Bernard Sanders, Governor (Independent)
 - Susan Auld, Lt. Governor (Democrat)
 - Howard Dean, Lt. Governor (Democrat)
 - Patrick Leahy, U. S. Senate (Democrat)

VII. Materials Related to Jesse Jackson Visit to Vermont

- 28 Vermont Plan for Jesse Jackson, 1988
- 29 List of Voters for Jesse Jackson
- 30 Jesse Jackson-Miscellaneous
- 31 Jesse Jackson '88 position papers (Masters/Originals)
- Size D "Rainbow Rising," *Vanguard Press*, vol. x, no. 50, January 7-14, 1988

VIII. Newspaper Clippings

- 32 Jesse Jackson
- 33 Democratic Party/Liberal Split
- 34 Bernard Sanders Run For Governor
- 35 Vermont Rainbow Coalition, 1985-1988
- 36 Articles about Ellen David-Friedman
- 37 Miscellaneous clippings
- Size D "Which Way Now? The Left in Vermont Does Some Soul-Searching," *Vermont Sunday Magazine*, March 5, 1989

IX. 1988 Elections

- 38 Secretary of State Election Information, 1988
- 39 Senate Races, 1988
- 40 Delegates to Caucuses, 1988
- 41 Election Results, 1988
- 42 Vermont Elections, 1988
- 43 Peter Welch for Congress Campaign Information, 1988

X. Issues

- 44 Active Issues, 1989
- Doc 454:45 Examples of Campaign Issues
- 46 Position Papers and Issues

- 47 Farm Policy
- 48 Republican Party Conflict
- 49 Voter Registration Legislation
- 50 Candidate Support (Voter Lists)

XI. Rainbow Coalition of Vermont Records 1990-1991

- MSA 212:1 Election, 1990, includes photographs
- 2 Taxes 1990
- 3 Election-Sanders, 1990
- 4 1990 Election Results-Sanders
- 5 1990 Voting Records
- 6 Active Files, 1990-1991
- 7 1991 Progressive Coalition
- 8 Commentaries, Andrew Christensen, *Hardwick Gazette*, 1990

XII Miscellaneous

- 9 Philip Morris Tour of Bill of Rights, 1990
- Size D Newspaper insert, Vermont Equal Rights Amendment, 1986
- 10 Miscellaneous
- Size D _____, _____, newspaper ad

Barbara Ellingson
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