
Inventory of the Wilma Chan Papers

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Inventory of the Wilma Chan Papers

Collection number: LP459

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
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Processed by:

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Wilma Chan Papers

Dates: 2001-2006

Collection number: LP459

Creator: Wilma Chan, California Legislator

Collection Size: 13.5 cubic feet

Repository: California State Archives

Sacramento, California

Abstract: Wilma Chan was elected to the California State Assembly in 2000 and served until 2006. The Wilma Chan Papers consists of 13.5 cubic feet of textual records reflecting Chan's legislative activity during her time as member of the California State Assembly.

Physical location: California State Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Wilma Chan Papers, LP459:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History

The California State Archives acquired the Wilma Chan Papers following her final term in the State Legislature.

Biography

Wilma Chan, Democrat, served in the State Assembly from 2001 to 2006. Chan represented the 16th Assembly District, which included Oakland, Piedmont, and Alameda in Alameda County.

Chan was born on October 5, 1949 in Boston, Massachusetts. She attended Wellesley College where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. She earned her Master of Arts degree in education policy from Stanford University.

Wilma Chan is married to Carl Zeff, a public school teacher. Chan has two children from her marriage: a daughter, Jennifer and son, Daren. Prior to her work in the Assembly, Chan was program coordinator for Effective Parenting Information for Children. Chan was elected as the first Asian American to serve on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and remained in this position until 2000. She also served on the Oakland Board of Education, 1990-1994, prior to her election to the California State Assembly.

Wilma Chan was elected to the State Assembly in 2000. Chan's legislative interests focused predominately on: children's issues, health care, jobs, trade, and education. Legislation introduced by Chan included a ban on toxic flame retardants, a \$100 million dollar expansion of State Preschool programs, and legislation protecting uninsured children. She served as Assembly Majority Whip from 2001-2002. Chan is the first woman and first Asian American Majority Leader of the California State Assembly, 2002-2004. Chan termed out of her Assembly seat in 2006.

After her time in the Assembly, Chan acted as the Legislator in Residence at UC Berkley where she taught political science for two years, 2006-2007. She ran an unsuccessful campaign against Loni Hancock for California State Senate, District 9 in 2008. Chan served four years on the California Medical Assistance Commission working on hospital care for Medical patients. She also completed a stint as Vice President for Policy at Children Now, a child advocacy organization based out of Oakland. Wilma Chan was re-elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 2010.

Chan received numerous awards during her tenure in public service. These awards include: Person of the Year: World Journal, Legislator of the Year: Oakland East Bay Democratic Club, and Rising Star Award: CA League of Conservation Voters.

According to the *California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks)* and the *Assembly Final History*, Chan served on the following committees:

Standing Committees:

Aging and Long Term Care, 2001-2002
Banking and Finance, 2001-2002
Budget, 2001-2006
Governmental Organization, 2001-2002
Health, 2001-2006
*Chair, 2005-2006
Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, 2001-2004
Labor and Employment, 2003-2006
Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security, 2001-2004
Transportation, 2003-2006

Select Committees:

Air and Water Quality, 2001-2004
Airports and the Airline Industry, 2003-2004
Asian Trade, 2001-2004
*Chair, 2001-2004
California's Children's School Readiness and Health, 2001-2006
*Chair, 2001-2006
California's Foreign Trade Offices, 2003-2004
California-Mexico Affairs, 2001-2002
California Ports, 2003-2004
Cancer Detection, Prevention and Research, 2003-2004
Childhood Obesity and Related Diabetes, 2003-2004
Community Colleges, 2005-2006
Environmental Justice, 2003-2004
Equal Access to Preschool, 2003-2004
Future of California's Health, 2003-2004
Foster Care, 2005-2006
Gang Violence and Juvenile Crimes, 2003-2004
Language and Access to the Government, 2001-2004
*Co-Chair, 2001-2004
Los Angeles Health Care Crisis, 2005-2006
Olmstead Implementation, 2005-2006
Ports, 2005-2006

Urban Revitalization, 2001-2002

Subcommittees:

Education Finance, No. 2 (Budget), 2001-2006

International Trade (Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy), 2001-2002

Joint Committees:

Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California, 2003-2004

Legislative Audit, 2003-2004

*Co-Chair, 2003-2004

Scope and Content

The Wilma Chan papers consist of 13.5 cubic feet of textual records reflecting Chan's legislative activity during her time as member of the California State Assembly. The collection is organized into one record series: Bill Files, 2001-2006.

The bills introduced by Wilma Chan address a wide array of subjects. Bill files are particularly useful for researchers interested in children's health, nutrition, and fitness programs; Medi-Cal; substance abuse; and pesticide regulation. Wilma Chan authored bills concerning children's education, environmental issues related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), mental health assistance, elder care, school safety, and planning and development.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Chan, Wilma

Education, Elementary - California

Mental health laws - California

Nutrition

LP459:1-256

Series 1 **Bill Files 2001-2006**

Physical Description: 256 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note

Bill files created by Wilma Chan may include bill analyses, amendments, resolutions, author statements, testimonies, press releases, letters of support and opposition, editorials, newspaper clippings, correspondence, committee statements, and other information. Significant bills in the Wilma Chan papers include bills related to the Healthy Families Program, adolescent alcohol and substance abuse, and the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California). Bill files also include pertinent information related to Medi-Cal (AB843, AB969, AB2744, 2001-2002; AB2270, 2003-2004), hazardous chemicals (AB302, AB1940, AB2487, 2003-2004), mental health (AB2736, 2001-2002; AB2170, 2005-2006), and healthcare (AB2739, 2001-2002; AB356, AB2289, 2003-2004). Bill files reflect Chan's legislative interests in the environment, children's issues, public health, and public safety.

2001-2002: AB314-AB2917, AJR52 (82ff) LP459:1-82

2003-2004: AB4-AB2587, ACR59-ACR214, AJR12 (97ff) LP459:83-179

2005-2006: AB71-AB3071, ACR112, AJR40 (77ff) LP459:180-256