Guide to the David Kelley Papers

Collection number: LP444

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: David Kelley Papers

Dates: 1979-2002

Collection number: LP444

Creator: Kelley, David

Collection Size: 18 cubic feet

Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California


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], David Kelley Papers, LP444:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Biography

David Kelley, a Republican, served California as a State Assembly Member from 1979 through 1992, as a State Senator from 1993 through 2000, and again as a State Assembly Member from 2000 through 2001. Kelley is one of the "Proposition 13 Babies" elected during the tax revolt of 1978, defeating incumbent Democrat Tom Suitt. He represented the 75th Assembly District, a large portion of western Riverside County, which included the cities of Corona, Hemet, Norco, San Jacinto, Palm Springs, and parts of Lake Elsinore and Riverside. Kelley won reelection in 1982 to represent the newly reapportioned 73rd Assembly District, which covered a large portion of western Riverside County, including the cities of Corona, Hemet, Norco, San Jacinto, Palm Springs, and parts of Lake Elsinore and Riverside. In 1992, he won election as State Senator to represent the 37th Senatorial District, spanning the southeast corner of the state. The district includes all of Imperial County and most of eastern Riverside and San Diego counties. It includes the cities of Blythe, Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm
Desert, Palm Springs, Poway, Rancho Mirage, Santee, Westmoreland, and parts of Escondido and San Diego. Other communities included are Alpine, Borrego Springs, Lakeside, Ramona Rancho San Diego, Thousand Palms, Valle Vista, Winter Gardens and part of Spring Valley. After representing the 37th Senatorial District for eight years David Kelley returned to the Assembly after reaching his term limits. Kelley served the 80th Assembly District for one term (2001-2002), a district that covered much of the same constituents that Kelley served as State Senator including all of Imperial County and the eastern half of Riverside County, the cities of Blythe, Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage and Westermored, and the communities of Thousand Palms and Valle Vista. Kelley did not seek reelection after voting for the 2001 budget. Along with Kelley, three other Republicans voted for the budget. One did not seek reelection and the other two failed to maintain their seats during the next election.

David Kelley was born on October 11, 1928, in Riverside, California. He graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he majored in citrus fruit production. He interrupted his education to serve as a U.S. Air Force pilot in the Korean Conflict. In 1970 and 1971 Kelley served in the Peace Corps in southern India, supervising trainees for service projects. He has been a citrus rancher for more than 50 years in the Hemet area. Kelley has been active in the Riverside County Farm Bureau since 1955, serving as vice president and president for eight years. He also has served on the board of the California Farm Bureau Federation. He and his wife, Brigitte, have four grown children and ten grandchildren. Kelley is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hemet.

**California State Assembly, 1979-1992, 2001-2002**

*Standing Committees*

- Budget, 2001-2002
- Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, 1987-1990
- Health, 1989-1992
- Intergovernmental Relations, 1985-1986
- Transportation, 1979-1980
- Veterans Affairs, 1985-1986
- *Vice Chair, 1985-1986
- Ways and Means, 1981-1984

*Subcommittees*

- Agriculture - Subcommittee on Livestock and Dairy, 1983-1984
- Agriculture - Subcommittee on Medfly Eradication Project, 1981-1982
- Budget – Subcommittee #3 Resources, 2001-2002
- Transportation - Subcommittee on Air Quality, 1979-1980
- Ways and Means - Subcommittee #3 Resources and Transportation, 1983-1984

*Select Committees*

- Agricultural Fumigants and Their Alternatives, 1981-1982
- Aviation, 1983-1988
- Biotechnology, 2001-2002
- CALFED, 2001-2002
California – Mexico Affairs, 2001-2002
Department of Motor Vehicles, 2001-2002
Earthquake and Safety Preparedness, 2001-2002
Farm Labor, 1979-1980
*Chair, 1979-1980
Highway Patrol, 2001-2002
International Trade, Investment, and Tourism, 1983-1984
International Water Treatment and Reclamation, 1983-1984
Underground Water Quality, 2001-2002
Joint Committees
Fairs Allocation and Classification, 1985-1992
California State Senate, 1993-2000
Standing Committees
Agriculture and Water Resources, 1993-2000
*Vice Chair
Appropriations, 1993-2000
Business and Professions, 1993-2000
Constitutional Amendments, 1995-2000
Chair 1995-1998
Energy, Utilities, and Communications 1995-2000
Investment and International Trade 1993-1994
Subcommittees
Appropriations – Subcommittee on Bonded Indebtedness and Methods of Financing, 1995-1996
Appropriations – Subcommittee on Fiscal Oversight, 1997-2000
Business and Professions – Subcommittee on Sports, 1995-1996
Select Committees
Bilingual Education, 1995-1996
Cal Fed Water Program, 1997-2000
Capital Areal Flood Protection, 1999-2000
Community Development, 1997-1998
Southern California Water Districts' Expenditures and Governance, 1997-2000
Chair, 1999-2000
Joint Committees
Coordination of Public Policy Research, 1995-1998
School Facilities, 1995-1996
Boards, Commissions, and Councils
Library Construction and Renovation Board, 1997-2000
Scope and Content
The David Kelley Papers consist of 18 cubic feet of textual records and cover the years 1981 to 2002. The records are organized into the following record series: Bill Records, 1979-1986; Bill Files, 1981-2002; Correspondence, 1979-1987; and Press Releases, 1981-1983. The Bill Records provide a summary of the bills introduced by Kelley during each legislative session from 1979 through 1986. The Bill Files document his legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature and are the bulk of the collection. The bills introduced by David Kelley cover a wide variety of subjects but most notably water issues and agriculture.

David Kelley was considered to be one of the state's most knowledgeable and key water leaders. Throughout his career in the Assembly and the Senate, Kelley authored many bills that pertained to water quality and conservation with a strong focus on his district and constituents. Kelley was key to the success of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California agreement on the transfer of
agricultural water from IID to SDCWA. In terms of water conservation, Kelley carried legislation that advocated for the use of "reclaimed" or "recycled" water throughout the state, and created an office within the Department of Water Resources to deal with water reclamation and the promotion of the use of reclaimed water statewide.

**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.

- National Farm Labor Union (U.S.)
- Agriculture - California
- California. Legislature. Senate. Appropriations Committee

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**LP444:1**

**Series 1 Bill Records 1979-1986**

- **Physical Description:** 1 file folder
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically by legislative session.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Bill Records provide a summary of the bills introduced by David Kelly during each legislative session. Summaries note whether the bill was chaptered, died, or dropped.

**LP444:2-349**

**Series 2 Bill Files 1981-2002**

- **Physical Description:** 348 file folders
- **Arrangement**
  Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill file.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  Bill Files were created by David Kelley while he served as a state legislator from 1981-2002. The bill files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author’s statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements. The bill files include amendments, analyses, letters and position statements in support of opposition, Legislative Counsel opinions and conflict letters, author’s floor and committee statements and press releases, newspaper clipping, background information, and other documents regarding implementation.


1981-1982: AB10-AB145 (1ff) LP444:2
1983-1984: AB8-AB4036, AJR128 (23) LP444:3-25
1987-1988: AB11-AB4691, ACR8-ACR60 (18ff) LP444:43-60
LP444:350-357  Series 3 Correspondence 1979-1987
   Physical Description: 8 file folders
   Arrangement
   Arranged chronologically by correspondence date.
   Scope and Content Note
   Sampled correspondence includes communication between David Kelley and his fellow legislators, some constituents, and agencies and organizations affected by specific legislation over the span of his time with the State Legislature. The series also contains one file folder of correspondence with Governor George Deukmejian.

   Physical Description: 2 file folders
   Arrangement
   Arranged chronologically by publication date.
   Scope and Content Note
   Press Releases provide insight into David Kelley's legislative interests and accomplishments. Kelley often provided open criticism of Governor Jerry Brown's policies, especially those concerning agriculture and taxes. Kelley questioned Brown's statement of being a "born-again tax cutter," and asserted that the Governor failed to meet the state's demands of reducing state spending. The press releases often criticize Democratic Party policies. After Governor George Deukmejian assumed office Kelley utilized his press release to support the Governor's budget.