Inventory of the Maxine Waters Papers, 1976-1990

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Inventory of the Maxine Waters Papers

Collection number: LP411

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

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Inventory of the Maxine Waters Papers, 1976-1990
Dates: 1976-1990
Collection number: LP411
Creator: Waters, Maxine
Collection Size: 19 cubic feet
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: Maxine Waters was elected to the California Assembly in 1976. She represented the 48th Assembly District, which included a portion of south central Los Angeles and the suburbs of Lynwood and South Gate. The Maxine Waters Papers consist of 19 cubic feet of textual and photographic records. These materials document Waters' activities in the California State Assembly from 1976-1990. They are organized into seven series: Bill Files, Subject Files, South Africa Files, Hearing Files, Correspondence Files, Press Releases and Photographs.

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], Maxine Waters Papers, LP411:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Biography
Maxine Waters, Democrat, was born in St. Louis, Missouri on August 15, 1938, to Remus and Velma Lee Carr Moore. Waters moved to California in 1960 with her husband, Sidney Williams, and two children, Karen and Edward. Waters received her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Los Angeles, where she majored in sociology. Before being elected to the State Assembly, Waters worked in a variety of jobs, including a garment factory where she first moved to Los Angeles. She helped to organize the first Head Start program in the Nickerson Gardens-Watts Housing Project. She later went onto become a teacher and superintendent of parent education for Watts, Wilmington and San Pedro. She was a partner in a groundbreaking public relations firm, which paved the way for minority public relations firms to do business in the competitive commercial world. Also prior to being elected, Maxine helped to raise money for a number of non-profits including the Black Congress, the Mothers of Watts and Dollars for Scholars.
Waters was elected to the California Assembly in 1976. She represented the 48th Assembly District, which included a portion of south central Los Angeles and the suburbs of Lynwood and South Gate. Waters fought for the divestment of Californian funds in South Africa, a country practicing apartheid. Other legislation by Waters set affirmative action standards for businesses and universities to comply with. Additionally, she carried bills to ensure that female members of the Assembly would be called Assemblywomen rather than Assemblymen. Waters also introduced bills on small business development, insurance and consumer laws.

In 1990, Waters successfully ran for the U.S House of Representatives, taking the 29th Congressional District, which was later renumbered as the 35th Congressional District after the 1990 Census. She has been reelected nine times and currently holds the office today.

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

**California State Assembly, 1976-1990**

*Standing Committees*
- Elections and Reapportionment, 1976-1982
- Health, 1976-1980
- Human Resources, 1976-1978
- Governmental Efficiency and Cost Control, 1985-1986
- Governmental Organization, 1985-1988
- Judiciary, 1976-1990
- Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs, 1979-1980
- Local Government, 1976-1978
- Natural Resources, 1987-1990
- Public Investment, Finance and Bonded Indebtedness, 1985-1986
- Rules, 1981-1984
- Ways and Means, 1978-1990

*Subcommittees*
- Ways and Means, #4, 1978-1990
- *Chair, 1978-1990
- Ways and Means, #5, Super Agency Budgets, 1981-1982
- Judiciary, Administration of Justice, 1985-1986

*Select Committees*
- California’s Automotive Industry and Plant Closures, 1979-1980
- California Youth, 1981-1982
- County Government, 1981-1982
- Insurance, 1985-1986
- International Trade, Investment and Tourism, 1983-1984
- Office of State Treasurer, 1987-1990
- Olympic Oversight, 1983-1990
- Plastic Pipe Oversight, 1983-1984
- Regulatory Oversight, 1981-1982
- Victims of Sexual Assault, 1987-1988

*Special Committees*
- Campaign and Election Reform, 1983-1984
- MediCal Reform, 1979-1980
- Public Pension Fund Investments, 1989-1990
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*Chair, 1989-1990
Ad Hoc Subcommittee
State and Local Bonds, 1981-1982
Boards
Job Creation Board, 1977-1978
Public Works Board, 1985-1990
Small Business Development Board, 1985-1986
Commissions
Commission on the Status of Women, 1977-1990

Scope and Content
The Maxine Waters Papers consist of 19 cubic feet of textual and photographic records. These materials document Waters’ activities in the California State Assembly from 1976-1990. They are organized into seven series: Bill Files, Subject Files, South Africa Files, Hearing Files, Correspondence Files, Press Releases and Photographs. Also included in these papers are records related to the Commission on the Status of Women, on which Waters served as an Honorary Legislative Member. These records of this subgroup are organized into six series: Meeting Minutes, Pending Legislative Summaries, Commission Business Papers, Meeting Files, Subject Files and California Women Files.

The Bill Files series reflects Water’s long-standing interests in small business development, minority rights, and divesting of California dollars from South Africa. Waters consistently authored legislation to protect minority populations from discrimination. She continuously authored bills pertaining to victims’ rights. AB270 and AB1367 (1983-1984) are bills concerning the rights of arrested persons. The bills were conceived after two Californian women were strip searched after being arrested for failing to properly license their dogs. The original bill was vetoed by Governor Deukmejian along with a number of other bills written by Waters due to a dispute they were having. The bills drew in correspondence from all over the state in both support and opposition. When she reintroduced the bill later in the session, it was passed into law (Statutes of 1984, chapter 35). She also authored numerous bills each session concerning women. AB290 (1979-1980) would protect the rights of women working in the hazardous materials industry. This bill made it possible for women to take these jobs without the threat of forced sterilization. The bill passed through the legislature and was signed by the governor in 1980 as Chapter 619.

Waters also took a great interest in small business development in California. In the 1979-1980 legislative session she introduced AB1656, AB1657 and AB1701, all with the intent of aiding the small business owners of California. AB1656 restructured the Office of Small Business Development within the Department of Economic and Business Development; AB1657 was written to appropriate $1 million of the state budget for the California Small Business Loan Program; and AB1701 was authored in order to establish a twenty-five percent state set-aside for small businesses to be able to obtain contracts with the state. Of the three bills, however, only AB1656 went into effect (Statutes of 1979, chapter 875), which successfully reorganized the Office of Small Business Development.

Another piece of notable legislation authored by Waters was HR6 (1977-1978), a bill to ensure that female assembly members would be known as Assemblywomen rather than Assemblymen, as they had been previously.

Additional Information
Related Collections at the California State Archives
Assembly Elections and Reapportionment
Assembly Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments
Assembly Human Resources
Assembly Governmental Efficiency and Cost Control
Assembly Governmental Organization
Assembly Judiciary
Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs
Assembly Local Government
Assembly Public Investment, Finance and Bonded Indebtedness
Assembly Rules
Assembly Ways and Means
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.

Minority business enterprises - California
Democratic Party (Calif.)
Affirmative action programs - California

Series 1 Bill Files 1977-1990

Physical Description: 173 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note
Most bill files include all or some of the following items: bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, press releases, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. Water's legislative interests included women's rights, small business development and victims' rights. Waters authored multiple bills related to divesting California from South Africa. Notable legislation includes AB2808 (1981-1982), which aimed to create the South African Divestment Act; AB134 and AB1134 (1983-1984) also called for California to divest from South Africa. She also authored legislation to alleviate some of the problems facing employees of industrial plants which closed or were closing. Such legislation included AB952 (1983-1984), AB607 (1987-1988) and AB2839 (1981-1982). The issue of plant closures drew in correspondence from around the country, as the issue was becoming a national concern.

1977-1978 AB548-AB3769, ACA85, ACR62-ACR72, AJR23-AJR93, HR6-HR7 (17ff) LP411:1-17
1979-1980 AB143-AB3461, ACR20-ACR123, AJR4-AJR68 (24ff) LP411:18-41
1987-1988 AB292-AB4347, ACA5, AJR85, HR26-HR27 (22ff) LP411:128-149

Series 2 Subject Files 1977-1990

Physical Description: 113 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
Subject files contain information on topics that were relevant to the legislation Waters authored or to the committees on which she was a member. Included are memoranda from Waters' office, newspaper articles, photographs, and reports. Waters served as a representative to the Democratic National Convention in the early 1980s. As a result, numerous files pertaining to the political party's national affairs are included in her subject files. Other files relate to topics concerning her district, such as the Los Angeles County Board of Education and Los Angeles County Board of Health.

For a complete list of subject files, see Appendix A in Additional Series Information.

Additional Series Information
Appendix A: List of Subject Files
Series 3  South Africa Files 1981-1989

Physical Description: 48 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by the subject heading.

Scope and Content Note
South Africa files contain information on topics that were relevant to the legislation Waters authored pertaining to the country of South Africa and apartheid during the 1980s. The files include newspaper clippings and monthly publications relating to the happenings in South Africa. Also found in the South Africa Files are lists of Californian and American companies who had investments in South Africa. There is correspondence from companies and constituents giving their opinion on the matter. In these files are reports by certain businesses that invested in South Africa, such as IBM, who gave reports to the Assembly as to what they are doing to divest or future plans of divestment.

For a complete list of South Africa files, see Appendix B in Additional Series Information.

Additional Series Information
Appendix B: List of South Africa Files

Series 4  Hearing Files 19778-1979

Physical Description: 3 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by hearing date.

Scope and Content Note
Hearing Files consist of material related to a Special Hearing on the Report of the Office of Small Business Development (05/04/1978) held by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, of which she was a member. Also found in the series are interim hearings before the Assembly Committee of Public Employees and Retirement (12/07/1978) where she introduced legislation regarding layoffs based on seniority. She authored this bill so that jobs gained by affirmative action programs would not be lost due to work force reductions. An interim hearing on AB290 was held before the Assembly Labor, Employment and Consumer Affairs Committee on November 16, 1979. Waters was a member of the committee and was also presented her legislation at this hearing. Waters authored AB290 on the topic of forced sterilization for women working in the hazardous materials industry.

Series 5  Correspondence 1977-1990

Physical Description: 46 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence Files contain a sampling of letters sent to Waters on specific subjects. Waters' staff organized the letters by topic in order to compose form letter responses. Some files contain examples of the form letter and relate to such topics as the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Minorities in Business, South Gate, Taxes, and the University of California. For a complete list of Correspondence, see Appendix C in Additional Series Information.

Additional Series Information
Appendix C: List of Correspondence
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<td>Press Releases were announcements about topics that Waters wanted noticed or activities and legislation she was involved in. Some of the topics included is legislation introduced by Waters, announcements of press conferences, and legislation authored by Waters and signed by the governor. Waters and her staff assigned a number to each press release in the order in which she released them. Numbers 1-193 are the press releases from 1976-1984. Each year after that saw the numbering start over. In 1985:1-29, 1986: 1-17, 1987:1-12, 1988:1-19 and 1990:1-9. The press releases from 1989 were not included in her files.</td>
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<td>The photographs in this series are mainly of the Champions Dinners that Waters hosted in order to honor various athletes of African-American descent or athletes living in her district. These athletes included Jack Youngblood, Ron Brown, John Matuszak, Timmy Smith, Terry Schroeder, Willy Gault, Charles Lake, Linden King, Mike Haynes, and Valerie Brisco-Hooks. Other photos included are of a dinner for the Black American Political Association, photos of the legislature in the late 1980s, and photos taken of Waters with Reverend Jesse Jackson.</td>
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<th>California Commission on the Status of Women 1977-1988</th>
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<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<td>According to a press release in 1977 from Assembly Speaker Leo T. McCarthy, the Commission on the Status of Women “acts as the state’s information center on the status of women in the areas of education, employment, politics, social attitudes, economics and law. It aids in projects designed to promote the full participation of women in all aspects of society.” The commission was charged with conducting studies and reporting their findings to the legislature. Maxine Waters served on the commission from 1977-1990.</td>
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<td>The Meeting Minutes contain proposed agendas, minutes of meetings, background information, legislative updates, and relevant correspondence for a designated meeting. The meetings were usually held once a month in Sacramento, in the Governor’s conference room. Discussed in the meetings were topics including pay inequities, equal opportunity to jobs and education, and issues of minority women throughout California.</td>
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Series 2 Pending Legislative Summaries 1993-1986

Physical Description: 5 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by month
Scope and Content
The Pending Legislative Summaries were monthly updates published by the Commission in regard to all legislation currently in the legislature that affected women. Since the Commission consulted with individuals and groups, they had to stay current on the legislation that would affect women and thus authored these packets so that each member would be able to do so.

Series 3 Commission Business Papers 1977-1988

Physical Description: 26 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by year.
Scope and Content
The Business Papers of the Commission contain incoming and outgoing correspondence between the Commission on the Status of Women and representatives of affected groups and state agencies. The files also include financial statements, and various types of approvals and amendments pertaining to Commission policies. The majority of these files consist of correspondence and focus on the day-to-day workings of the Commission.

Series 4 Meeting Files 1984-1987

Physical Description: 13 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date of meeting.
Scope and Content
The Meeting Files include agendas, minutes from previous meetings, transcripts, correspondence, reports, notes on general discussion, calendars for scheduled meetings, and budget information. Each file contains a tentative agenda for the next meeting and items that would be heard then. Each item was assigned a number that corresponded to a number on the agenda. Most items were reports published by the Commission for review by the Legislature. Other topics discussed in meetings included pay inequities, equal opportunity to jobs and education, and issues of minority women throughout California.

Series 5 Subject Files 1982-1986

Physical Description: 3 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.
Scope and Content
Subject Files contain information on topics that were relevant to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Subject Files include a press kit given to members of the Commission so they would be prepared to answer questions about the business of the Commission. Also included is a file containing a proposed duty statement of the Executive Director of the Commission, which was written in response to the Commission’s evaluations of the Director. The last subject file contains a response by the Commission to the Legislative Analyst’s questions about the budget for the Commission in 1986.
Physical Description: 1 file folder

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by date of publication.

Scope and Content
California Women is a monthly newsletter that details the current happenings of the Commissions on the Status of Women. Waters received the publications regularly, although she did not keep every copy issued to her. The publication discusses legislation pertaining to women as it moves through the legislature. It also has a message from the chair in each issue.