Guide to the Richard Polanco Papers

Collection number: LP441

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

Processed by:
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Sara Kuzak

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Richard Polanco Papers
Dates: 1986-2002
Collection number: LP441
Creator: Richard Polanco, California Legislator
Collection Size: 45 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], Richard Polanco Papers, LP441:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the Richard Polanco Papers following his final term in the State Legislature.

Biography
Richard Polanco, Democrat, served in the California Legislature from 1986 to 2002. He was first elected to the California State Assembly, replacing Assembly Member Richard Alatorre, through a special election on June 5, 1986. He represented the 55th Assembly District (Northeastern Los Angeles and part of Pasadena) in the 1980s, and after redistricting in 1991 he served the 45th Assembly District, which included East Los Angeles, until 1994. In 1994, Polanco was elected to the California State Senate to represent the 22nd Senate District, which included the cities of Alhambra, Maywood, San Marino, South Pasadena, Vernon, Walnut Park, and parts of Florence-Graham, Los Angeles, and East Los Angeles. Polanco served in this position until 2002.

Richard Polanco was born March 4, 1951, in Los Angeles, California. A native Angeleno, Polanco graduated from James A. Garfield High School and East Los Angeles College before attending the University of Redlands and the Universidad de
Mexico, majoring in Business Administration. Prior to his election to the legislature in 1986, Polanco was active in both state and local politics. At a community level, Polanco helped found the Arroyo Vista Family Health Center in Highland Park, which offers medical services on a sliding scale for low-income patients, in addition to his work with organizations such as Para Los Ninos, a daycare center for Skid Row youth, and the Mujeres Recovery Home, which works with alcoholic Latinas. At the state level, Polanco served as a special assistant to Governor Jerry Brown during his first term in office and as Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Richard Alatorre.

As a State Legislator, Polanco's legislative interests were varied, ranging from water desalination programs to transnational economic partnerships to the research and treatment of various mental illnesses. He also authored numerous bills related to Medicare expansion, prison reform, and insurance regulation. Over the span of his time in the legislature, Polanco consistently advocated for Latino interests, including formally recognizing and granting an annual holiday in honor of agricultural activist, Cesar Chavez. Under his tenure as chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus, he oversaw a notable increase in the number of Latino members in the state legislature.

During his term in the California Legislature, Polanco served on the following committees according to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks), Assembly Final History, and Pocket Directory of the California Legislature.

**Standing Committees**
- Agriculture, 1993-1994
- Banking, Finance, and Bonded Indebtedness, 1991-1992
- Health, 1987-1994
- Housing and Community Development, 1987-1988
- Rules, 1988-1994
- Transportation, 1987-1988
- Ways and Means, 1988-1994

**Subcommittees**
- Agricultural Education, 1994
- Chair, 1992-1994
- Chair, 1987-1988
- Chair, 1989-1991
- Minority Health Affairs, 1992
- Rule Changes, 1990-1991
- Chair, 1993-1994

**Select Committees**
- California-Mexico Affairs, 1989-1994
- Chair, 1989-1994
- Neighborhood Violence and Mediation, 1988
- Office of Support of Public Education, 1993
- Chair, 1989-1994
- Statewide Immigration Impact, 1994
- Support of Public Instruction, 1994
Youth and Drug Abuse Prevention, 1988

*Joint Committees*
Mental Health Research, 1990-1992
Chair, 1990-1992
Rules, 1988-1994
International Trade, 1990

*Special Committees*

**California State Senate, 1995-2002**

*Standing Committees*
Appropriations, 1995-1996
Banking, Commerce, and International Trade, 2001-2002
Chair, 2002
Budget and Fiscal Review, 1997-2002
Business and Professions, 1995-2002
Chair, 1995-1998
Criminal Procedure, 1995-1997
Chair, 1995-1996
Finance, Investment, and International Trade, 1995-2000
Health and Human Services, 1995-2002
Labor and Industrial Relations, 2001-2002
Local Government, 1998-2000
Public Safety, 1998-2002
Transportation, 1995-2000

*Subcommittees*
Americas, 1995-2000
Chair, 1995-2000
Bioethics, 1995-1996
Chair, 1999-2000, 2002
Crimes against Children, 1995-1997
Chair, 1995-1997
California-European Trade Development, 1998
Mental Health and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, 2000-2002
Prison Construction, 1995-1996
Prison Construction and Operations, 1997
Chair, 1997
Professional and Vocational Standards, 1998
Chair, 1998
Trans Alameda Corridor, 2000

*Select Committees*
Alameda Corridor, 1998
California's Role in the World Trade Organization, 2001
College and University Admissions and Outreach, 2001-2002
Expenditures and Information Technology, 1998
Higher Education, 1997-2000
Higher Education Admissions and Outreach, 1998-2000
International Trade Policy and State Legislation, 2002
Northridge Earthquake, 1995-1996
Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories Operated by the University of California, 2002
Chair, 2002
Procurement, 1998
Southern California Water Districts' Expenditures and Governance, 1999-2000

Joint Committees
Arts, 1998-2002
Legislative Budget, 1998-2002
Legislative Sunset Review, 1998-2002
Prison Construction and Operations, 1998-2002
Chair, 1998-2002
School Facilities, 1997-1999

In addition to his many committee appointments, Richard Polanco served as Latino Legislative Caucus Chair from 1990-2002, and Senate Majority Leader from 1998-2002.

Scope and Content

The Bill Files are the bulk of his collection and a strong source of information about his legislative interests. These documents demonstrate Polanco's activism for local Los Angeles issues as well as matters concerning the State of California as a whole. Within this series, reoccurring topics include: issues pertaining to Latinos and other immigrants (SB938, 1997-1998; SB804 and SB1974, 2001-2002); healthcare (AB4532, 1987-1988; AB2424, 1989-1990; SB777, 1995-1996; and SB694, SB1181, SB1256, and SB2050, 1997-1998); international trade (AB2602, AB2852, and AJR99, 1989-1990; and AB3051, 1991-1992); prison reform (SB617, 1995-1996; SB1132, 1997-1998; SB404 and SB574, 2001-2002); and insurance/money lender regulation (AB230, 1987-1988; AB1461, 1989-1990; and SB1325, 1995-1996). Additionally reflective of his tenure with the California State Legislature, Polanco's various committee files also add insight into his numerous activities as a legislator. As the records creator, Richard Polanco grouped the files from his committee assignments together, and this order has thus been retained. The bulk of Polanco's various committee series stem from his term in the Assembly, 1986-1994; the exceptions being the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4 Files, the Latino Legislative Caucus Files, Prisoner Correspondence Files, and the Corcoran State Prison Hearing Files.

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Related Materials
Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee
Assembly Health Committee
Sam Farr Papers
Public Procurement Advisory Committee

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Polanco, Richard G.
California. Legislature. Assembly
California Latino Legislative Caucus
Guide to the Richard Polanco Papers

Series 1 Bill Files 1987-2002

Physical Description: 716 file folders and 1 audiocassette tape

Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Arrangement
Bill files are arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note
Bill Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as an Assembly Member from 1986-1994 and State Senator from 1995-2002. The files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements that pertain to numerous issues of concern to Polanco.


1987-1988: AB20-AB4362; ACA6-ACA42; AJR64-AJR84 (56ff) LP441:1-56
1989-1990: AB20-AB4362; ACA6-ACA42; AJR64-AJR84 (56ff) LP441:57-191
1989-1990: SB146-SB961 (2ff) LP441:192-193
1991-1992: AB57-AB3777; ACA27; ACR1-ACR139; AJR28-AJR99 (111ff) LP441:194-304
1991-1992: SB97 (1ff) LP441:305
1993-1994: AB175-AB3720; ACR33-ACR142; AJR21-AJR99; HR38-HR60; AB52X; ACR1X (135ff) LP441:306-408
1995-1996: SB75-SB2174; SCR36-SCR41; SR26 (86ff) LP441:409-494
1997-1998: SB14-SB2190; SCA6-SCA21; SCR23-SCR84; SJR42-SJR45 (73ff) LP441:495-567
1999-2000: SB44-SB2168; SCA7-SCA17; SCR31-SCR93; SJR23-SJR40; SR33 (77ff) LP441:568-644
1999-2000: AB2547 (1ff) LP441:645
2001-2002: SB24-SB2083; SCR10-SCR82; SJR2-SJR48; SR2-SR29; SB13XX-SB51XX; SB8XXX (70ff) LP441:646-715
2001-2002: AB1734 (1ff) LP441:716
Series 2 Subject Files 1986-2002

Physical Description: 69 file folders and 8 CD-Roms
Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.
Scope and Content Note
Subject Files include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels. The topics addressed cover a broad spectrum of issues, from alcoholic beverage control to convalescent homes to water desalination, and reflect Polanco's eclectic legislative interests.

See Appendix A in master finding aid at the California State Archives for a complete list of folder titles in the Subject Files.

Series 3 Correspondence 1986-2002

Physical Description: 33 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by correspondence date.
Scope and Content Note
Sampled correspondence includes communication between Richard Polanco and his fellow legislators, some constituents, and agencies and organizations affected by specific legislation over the span of his time with the State Legislature.

Series 4 Hearing Files 1989-1997

Physical Description: 12 file folders and 4 audiocassette tapes
Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by committee name, then chronologically by hearing date.
Scope and Content Note
Hearing Files include notes, transcripts, background materials, correspondence, and/or agendas from a number of hearings held before the various committees of which Polanco was a member. Notable hearings include: Mortgage Lending Activity in Low-Income Areas, held before the Assembly Banking, Finance, and Public Indebtedness Committee on November 5, 1990 in Sacramento; Bonding, Insurance, and Investment Opportunities for Minority, Women, and Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses, held before the Assembly State Public Procurement Practices Select Committee on February 11, 1992 in Sacramento; and Expanding International Trade Opportunities in Mexico, Latin America, and South America for California's Small Business Community, held before the Senate Americas Subcommittee on December 10, 1997 in Long Beach (includes four audiocassettes).

See Appendix B in master finding aid at the California State Archives for a complete list of Hearing Files.
Guide to the Richard Polanco Papers

Series 5 Reports 1989-1999

LP441:831-833

Physical Description: 3 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by report date.

Scope and Content Note

Reports series is comprised of studies related to specific topics of interest to Richard Polanco and/or the various committees of which he was a member. Reports include Various Air Quality Reports and Related Papers, and “The Use of Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents by Optometrists in California: A Study of Competence and Cost Effectiveness,” commissioned by the California Optometric Association.

LP441:834-851

Series 6 Public Procurement Advisory Committee Files 1986-1991

Physical Description: 18 file folders and 3 audiocassettes

Access Information

Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Arrangement

The Public Procurement Advisory Committee (PPAC) files are comprised of Hearing Files, Reports, and Subject Files. Within these subseries, the Hearing Files are arranged chronologically by hearing date; the Reports are arranged chronologically; and the Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Content Note

The Public Procurement Advisory Committee (PPAC) files were created while Richard Polanco was a member with the committee. PPAC Hearing Files contain notes, transcripts, background materials, correspondence, agendas, and/or audiocassettes from a number of hearings held before the advisory committee. Some hearings of note include: minority and women-owned business enterprises participation goals for state contracts, and one stop certification, small business preference program, public pension funds, California’s efforts to meet participation goals for minorities’ and women’s businesses in state contracts, and state agencies.

PPAC Reports contain three annual reports-1984, 1988, and 1990-that address the committee’s business, objectives, and legislation for that year.

PPAC Subject Files include such topics as Abuse of Public Funds, Minority and Women Businesses, and Minority/Disadvantaged Contractors. Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels.

See Appendix B in master finding aid at the California State Archives for a complete list of PPAC Hearing Files.

LP441:852-857

Series 7 Assembly Health Committee Subject File 1988-1992

Physical Description: 6 file folders

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Content Note

The Assembly Health Committee Files were created while Richard Polanco was a member of this committee and pertain to issues of interest to the committee. Topics include: Chaptered Legislation/Rules and Procedures, Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities/Lanterman Center, Developmental Disabilities: Protection and Advocacy, Emergency Broadcasts for the Deaf/Hearing Impaired, and Speeches to the Society of California Care Home Operators. Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series 8</th>
<th>Assembly Mental Health Subcommittee Subject Files 1986-1989</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP441:858-865</td>
<td>Physical Description: 8 file folders</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Arrangement</td>
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<td>Arranged alphabetically by folder title.</td>
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<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Assembly Mental Health Subcommittee Subject Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as subcommittee chair and concern issues of interest to the subcommittee. Topics include: Adolescent Psychiatric Commitment, Minority Mental Health, Minority Mental Health Conference, Riese Court Decision, and Rights of Minors. Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Series 9</th>
<th>Joint Mental Health Research Committee Files 1986-1991</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP441:866-874</td>
<td>Physical Description: 9 file folders</td>
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<td>Arrangement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Joint Mental Health Research Committee Files consist of two subseries: Subject Files and Reports. Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title. Reports are arranged chronologically by report date.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Joint Mental Health Research Committee Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as joint committee chair. Joint Mental Health Research Committee Subject Files pertain to issues of interest to the Joint Committee. Topics include: ACR10 Budget Realignment, Committee Advisory Panel, Committee Focus and Funding, Committee Focus and Press, Newsletters, Schizophrenia and Biotechnology, and Violent Youth Offenders. Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joint Mental Health Research Committee Reports include: &quot;Mental Health Research Priorities and Organization Questionnaires&quot; drafted by the Committee Advisory Panel; and &quot;Preventing Serious Mental Illness: California's Strategic Choice,&quot; created by the Joint Mental Health Research Committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 10 Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Files 1985-1990

Physical Description: 33 file folders and 2 audiocassettes

Access Information
Access to audiovisual material requires the production of use copies.

Arrangement
The series are organized into the following subseries: Bill Files, Hearing Files, Subject Files, Reports, and Correspondence. Bill Files are arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number. Reports are arranged chronologically by report date. Correspondence Files are arranged chronologically by correspondence date, and Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Content Note
The Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Files also include files from the Assembly Economic Development, International Trade, and Technologies Committee. Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Bill Files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and statements that pertain to numerous issues of concern to the committee.

1989-1990: AB222-AB3625; AJR21-AJR40 (3ff) LP441:875-877
1989-1990: SB69-SB2714; SCR46; SJR24-SJR68 (6ff) LP441:878-883


Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Subject Files include such topics as: Federal Expenditures Information Working Group, Memos from Sam Farr, and The State of the State's Economy. Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels.

Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Correspondence File includes a single file folder, LP441:907, of correspondence from April through May, 1990, between Richard Polanco and legislative consultant, David Pacheco, regarding legislation pertaining to international trade agreements.

Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Hearing Files include notes, transcripts, background materials, correspondence, and/or agendas from a number of hearings held before the committee.

See Appendix B in master finding aid at the California State Archives for a complete list of Assembly Economic Development and New Technologies Committee Hearing Files.
LP441.908-916  Series 11 Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Files 1987-1990

Physical Description: 9 file folders

Arrangement

Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Files include the following subseries: Hearing Files, Reports, Subject Files, and Correspondence. Reports are arranged chronologically by report date. Correspondence Files are arranged chronologically by correspondence date. Hearing Files are arranged chronologically by hearing date, and Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Content Note

Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as select committee chair. Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels. Topics include: Binational Bonding Authority and California-Mexico Infrastructure Bonding Authority.


Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Correspondence Files include correspondence dated from May 1989 through November 1990 and relate to the formation of the committee, the Fourth Annual Summer Institute on Mexico and the United States-held in Queretaro, Mexico from June 30 through July 4, 1989-and environmental and economic concerns of California and Mexico.

Assembly California-Mexico Affairs Select Committee Hearing Files include notes, transcripts, background materials, correspondence, and/or agendas from a number of hearings held before the committee. Hearings include: California-Mexico Joint Bonding Authority, held on December 7, 1989 in La Jolla; and U. S.-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, held on October 24, 1990 in Sacramento.

LP441.917-924  Series 12 Latino Legislative Caucus Files 1991-2000

Physical Description: 8 file folders

Arrangement

Latino Legislative Caucus Files are comprised of Subject Files and Reports. Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title. Reports are arranged chronologically by report date.

Scope and Content Note

Latino Legislative Caucus Files were created while Richard Polanco served as caucus chair. Latino Legislative Caucus Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels. Topics include: Bilingual Education, California Latino Agricultural Association, Freeze-Affected Agricultural Workers, and Water: Floods. The Reports include "Latinos at a Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities into the 21st Century," a collection of Latino Legislative Caucus Hearings, and Legislative Agendas and Related Papers.
LP441:925-929  

Physical Description: 5 file folders

Arrangement
Assembly International Trade and Business Development Subcommittee Hearing Files are arranged chronologically by hearing date.

Scope and Content Note
Assembly International Trade and Business Development Subcommittee Hearing Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as subcommittee chair. Hearing Files may include notes, transcripts, background materials, correspondence, and/or agendas from a number of hearings held before the committee. Hearings include: Electric/Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Mass Transportation Systems, held on December 16, 1991, in Los Angeles; and Oversight Hearing (Insurance/Business Claims), held on October 26, 1992, in Los Angeles.

LP441:930-944  
Series 14  Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4 Files 2001

Physical Description: 15 file folders

Arrangement
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4 Files were created by Richard Polanco while he served as subcommittee chair, and are comprised of Agenda Files and Subject Files. Agenda Files are arranged chronologically by hearing date, ranging from March through May 2001, and Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Content Note
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #4 Subject Files may include press and news clippings, correspondence, support letters, committee analyses, and/or interest group memoranda regarding certain subject files at the local, state and federal levels. Topics include: Department of General Services (Leases) and Excess Vacancies.

LP441:945-966  
Series 15  Corcoran State Prison Hearing Files 1997-1998

Physical Description: 22 file folders

Access Information
The Corcoran State Prison Hearing Files are restricted from public access under Government Code section 6254(f) (Investigative Files) and Civil Code section 1798.24 (disclosure of personal information).

Arrangement
Corcoran State Prison Hearing Files are arranged per the order established by the records creator.

Scope and Content Note
The Corcoran State Prison Hearing Files were created while Richard Polanco served as chair of the Joint Committee on Prison Construction and Operations, and include extensive background information and supplemental materials related to the hearing. In 1997-1998, a joint tribunal, including Senator Ruben Ayala, Prison Management Select Committee Chair, Senator John Vasconcellos, Public Safety Committee Chair, Assemblyman Don Perata, Public Safety Committee Chair, and Senator Polanco, convened to investigate prison guard brutality, administrative corruption, and agency cover-ups at Corcoran State Prison.
Series 16 Prisoner Correspondence Files 1990-2000

Physical Description: 14 file folders

Access Information
The Prisoner Correspondence Files are restricted from public access under Government Code section 6254(f) (Investigative Files) and Civil Code section 1798.24 (disclosure of personal information).

Arrangement
Prisoner Correspondence Files are arranged per the order established by the records creator.

Scope and Content Note
The Prisoner Correspondence Files were compiled by Richard Polanco during the 1990s. The correspondence concerns individual inmate appeals and inmate grievances against their various, respective correctional facilities.