Guide to the Donald (Don) Rogers Papers

Collection number: LP456

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

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Donald (Don) Rogers Papers

Dates: 1979-1996

Collection number: LP456

Creator: Rogers, Donald

Collection Size: 10 cubic feet

Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: Don Rogers, a Republican, was first elected in November 1978 to represent California’s 33rd Assembly District. The Don Rogers Papers consist of 10 cubic feet of textual records that cover the years 1979-1996.

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], Don Rogers Papers, LP456:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Biography

Don Rogers, a Republican, was first elected in November 1978 to represent the 33rd Assembly District which covered most of Kern County, including the cities of Bakersfield, Taft, Wasco, Shafter, Delano, Buttonwillow, Arvin, and Lamont, and a smaller portion of southern Tulare County, including the cities of Tulare, Pixley, Terra Bella, and Lindsay.

In November 1986, Rogers was elected to represent the 16th Senatorial District in the southern San Joaquin Valley, which included all of Kern and Kings Counties, a part of northern Los Angeles County, and part of San Bernardino County. At the end of 1992, Rogers ran for a new seat in the 17th Senatorial District, which included Inyo County, northern and eastern San Bernardino County, eastern Kern County, and northern Los Angeles County. He won and represented this district until the end of his term in 1996.

Donald A. Rogers was born on April 28, 1928, in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and graduated with a degree in Geology from Louisiana State University in 1951. While working for an oil company, he lived in Louisiana and Mississippi before establishing residence in Bakersfield in 1963. Rogers was a registered geologist in the State of California. He was also a member of the Kern County Farm Bureau, Future Farmers of America, National Federation of Independent Business, Gun
Owners of California, Independent Petroleum Association, and the San Joaquin Geological Society. He holds a commercial pilot's license, which he used to commute to the State Capitol in his own single-engine airplane. He is also a U.S. Marine Corp veteran.


Roger’s first interest in politics came as a result of receiving a property tax bill as a geological consultant in a small business. His taxes increased 45 percent in one year. This event led him to run for Bakersfield City Council in 1973. He won election and was re-elected in 1977, serving until his election to the Assembly in 1978.

During his term in the California Legislature, Rogers served on the following committees according to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks) and the California Blue Book:

**California State Assembly, 1979-1986**

*Standing Committees*

- Chair, 1981-1982
- Education, 1979-1980
- Energy and Natural Resources, 1981-1982
- Local Government, 1985-1986
- Natural Resources, 1983-1986
- Chair, 1985-1986
- Public Safety, 1985-1986
- Resources, Land Use, and Energy, 1979-1980
- Rules, 1983-1984
- Transportation, 1983-1984
- Water, Parks, and Wildlife, 1979-1982

*Select Committees*

- Aviation, 1983-1984
- Energy Alternatives in Agriculture, 1981-1982
- Genetic Diseases, 1979-1984
- Local Implementation of Tax and Spending Initiatives, 1979-1980
- Regulatory Oversight, 1979-1982

*Subcommittees*

- Energy, 1979-1982
- Postsecondary Education, 1979-1980
- Public Lands, 1979-1980

*Joint Committees*

- Rules, 1983-1984
- State’s Economy, 1981-1986

*Commissions*

- Seismic Safety, 1981-1982

**California State Senate, 1987-1996**

*Standing Committees*
Agriculture and Water Resources, 1987-1996
Bonded Indebtedness and Methods of Financing, 1987-1990
Vice Chair, 1987-1988
Housing and Urban Affairs, 1987-1988
Insurance, 1993-1994
Natural Resources and Wildlife, 1987-1996
Vice Chair, 1995-1996
Veteran's Affairs, 1989-1996
Chair, 1989-1994

Select Committees
Fairs and Rural Issues, 1987-1992

Scope and Content
The Don Rogers Papers consist of 10 cubic feet of textual records that cover the years 1979-1996. The records are organized into one record series: Bill Files, 1979-1996. The bill files document his legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature. The bills introduced by Don Rogers discuss taxes, geology, and Kern and Tulare Counties. Rogers was also involved in writing legislation that affected the United States on a national level.

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.

Taxation --Law and legislation
Geology
Agriculture - California - Tulare County
Series 1 Bill Files 1979-1996

**Physical Description:** 206 file folders

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

**Scope and Content Note**
Bill Files were created by Don Rogers while serving as a state Assembly Member, 1979-1986, and as a State Senator, 1987-1996. The files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author’s statements, testimony, position statements in support or opposition, Legislative Counsel opinions and conflict letters, press releases, newspaper editorials and clippings, background reports, information, and data that pertain to taxes, Kern and Tulare Counties, geology, and international relations.

Concerns regarding taxes influenced Rogers’ political career. He wrote legislation that abolished the state inheritance tax (AB264, 1979-1980), used sales tax revenue from sale of aviation jet fuel to fund improvements and maintenance of California-located airports (AB3290, 1985-1986), and equalized state funds going to counties for road maintenance, particularly in Kern and Tulare Counties (AB3830, 1985-1986).

Rogers, with a geology background, authored legislation regarding natural fuel sources such as oil and gasoline (AB1842, AB1900, AB1901, AB1918, AB2926, and AB2960, 1979-1980) as well as energy resources (AB2256, AB2474, and AB3002, 1983-1984). In particular, AB1466, 1981-1982, transfers funding responsibility for the Geothermal Regulatory Program from oil and gas operators to geothermal operators by authorizing the collection of annual geothermal well fees.

Water was also a major topic for Rogers, especially within his own Assembly District. During the legislative session 1979-1980, Rogers authored four bills affecting Kern and Tulare Counties -- AB1894 allowed four water districts in the 33rd Assembly District to levy assessments within zones of benefit; AB1895 removed the residency requirement for water district board election and only required that the director be a holder of title to land in the division; AB2170 granted statutory authority to four water districts in the 33rd Assembly District to generate hydroelectric power along irrigation districts; and AB2897 provided the four water districts with flood control powers and responsibilities. AB1063, 1981-1982, made changes in the Kern County Water Agency Act. SB776, 1995-1996 amends the Water Conservation Bond Law of 1988. Other water legislation includes AB591 and AB1431, 1985-1986; SB1168 and SB1189, 1995-1996.


1981-1982: AB52-AB3638, ACR36, AJR4-AJR68 (5ff) LP456:4-8
1981-1982: SB477, SB1922 (1ff) LP456:9
1985-1986: AB444-AB4387, ACA51, ACR12-ACR139 (33ff) LP456:14-46