Finding Aid to the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee Records
1889-1973 (bulk 1968-1971), SFH 33

Finding aid prepared by Tami J. Suzuki
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2014
Title: San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee Records

Date (inclusive): 1889-1973

Date (bulk): (1968-1971)

Collection Identifier: SFH 33

Creator: San Francisco (Calif.). Citizens Charter Revision Committee.

Physical Description: 4.0 cubic feet (in 4 cartons and 1 map drawer file)

Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
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Abstract: This collection documents the work of the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee, which met from 1968 to 1972 and submitted Proposition E which failed (on Nov. 4 1969), and Proposition R which passed (on Nov. 2, 1971).

Physical Location: The collection is stored off site.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access
The collection is open for research and stored off site. A minimum of two working days' notice is required for use. Please call the San Francisco History Center for hours and information at 415-557-4567.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee Records (SFH 33), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
The collection was transferred from the committee to the San Francisco Public Library after its dissolution in 1973.

Materials Transferred
Some monographs were transferred from the San Francisco Research series to the library's catalog. See Appendix B for list of titles.

Materials Removed
Charter documents of other cities were removed from the Comparative Studies series. See Appendix A for the list of cities. Some monographs were removed from the San Francisco Research series. See Appendix C for the list of titles.

Related Materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also SFH 5, Joseph L. Alioto Papers; SFH 25, San Francisco Charter Commission Records, 1931-1980 (bulk 1979-1980); SFH 32, San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform records, 1978-1996; SFH 24, Jack Morrison Papers, 1962-1988; San Francisco Charter Revision Committee Scrapbooks, 1930-1931; and the San Francisco History Center's subject and card files; and to check the library catalog.

Organizational History
The charter is San Francisco's constitution. The first city charter was adopted in 1898, creating a "strong mayor" form of government. Reformers in the 1920s succeeded in voter adoption of a new charter in 1932, establishing a chief administrative officer to direct most of the city's departments. Under this charter, power was diffused throughout the city. Over time, numerous incremental charter changes made governing arrangements more complex.

Charter revision was attempted several times--including three failed attempts--but resulted in little change. Mayor John Shelley initiated charter reform in 1967, establishing the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee. This fourth committee made recommendations that appeared on the November 1969 ballot as Proposition E; the measure was defeated.

A reconstituted committee then rearranged charter sections more logically with no substantive changes. This recodification, Proposition R, passed in November 1971 by a two-to-one margin. Following this, Mayor Joseph Alioto charged the committee to study recommendations of the Crime Commission, Blyth-Zellerbach management committee, and other blue-ribbon committees. A committee member noted that 150 pages of the 225-page charter were concerned with City employees' rights and obligations. A final report was produced in June of 1972, and the committee was dissolved the following spring.

Scope and Contents
This collection documents the work of the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee, which met from 1968 to 1972 and submitted Proposition E, which failed (on Nov. 4, 1969), and Proposition R, which passed (on Nov. 2, 1971). Materials include charter history, drafts and final text, reports, minutes, memoranda, research materials, and newspaper clippings.

**Arrangement**
Organized into six series: Series 1. Comparative Studies; Series 2. San Francisco Research; Series 3. Working Files and Ballot Measures; Series 4. Minutes; Series 5. Office Files; and Series 6. Newspaper Articles. Original order was maintained except for San Francisco Research (arranged alphabetically by subject), and Minutes and Newspaper Articles (arranged chronologically).

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
San Francisco (Calif.). Citizens Charter Revision Committee.
County charters—California—San Francisco
Municipal charters—California—San Francisco
San Francisco (Calif.)—Charters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Series 1. Comparative Studies, 1964-1969</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Physical Description:** 3.0 folders
| **Arrangement**
| Original order was maintained.
| **Scope and Contents**
| Contains memos comparing various cities' policies on subjects including boards and commissions and compensation of elected officials.
| **Materials Removed**
| Charter documents of other cities (mainly in the United States, 1914-1970) were removed.
| See Appendix A for list of cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folders 1-2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topical Memos Comparing Cities, 1967-1969</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Model City Charter, 1964</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|---|
| **Physical Description:** 0.75 cubic feet
| **Arrangement**
| Organized alphabetically by subject.
| **Scope and Contents**
| Contains reports and articles produced by blue-ribbon committees on local and regional government, City departments, and management issues; a critique of the Arthur D. Little reports on San Francisco's Community Renewal Program, and a bibliography. There is a table of charter changes enacted from 1960 to 1970 (in History of the Charter).
| **Materials Transferred**
| Some monographs were transferred to the library's catalog. See Appendix B for list of titles.
| **Materials Removed**
| A number of monographs were removed. See Appendix C for the list of titles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History of the Charter, 1889-1970</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Permit Appeals, 1964-1969</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget, 1963-1971</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Missing Item**
| According to the list for this topic, one document is missing: "The Commuter and the Municipal Income Tax," by Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 1970.

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SFH 33 3

| Box 1, Folder 9 | Census and Districts, 1960-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Civil Service, 1969-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Collective Bargaining, 1968-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | *San Francisco Community Renewal Program, Organization and Administration Study*, by Arthur D. Little, 1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Development Policies Report, 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 14-15 | Grand Jury Recommendations, 1970-1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Juvenile Court Study, 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 17-18 | Local Government, Background Study Prepared for California Constitution Revision Commission, 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | *Local Government, Past Present Future*, by League of Women Voters, 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | *Planning, Renewal and Development Program: A Critique of the Arthur D. Little Reports*, 1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Police Department, 1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Recreation and Park Department, *Plan for Action*, by Blyth-Zellerbach Committee, 1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Recreation and Park Department Program Evaluation, by Planning Research Corporation, 1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Regional Government, 1967-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Select Bibliography, 1963 |

**Series 3. Working Files and Ballot Measures, 1966-1971**

- **Proposition E, 1966-1971**
  - Missing Document: An "Azzolino Report on Failure of Proposition E" was noted in the index but not included in the collection.
  - Scope and Contents
    - Includes an index of proposed changes (Table of Dispositions). The Press Releases and Publicity file includes a schedule of public hearings, partial list of witnesses before the committee, list of articles--pro and con, summary of editorials on the Staff Report, and speaker's kit enclosures. The Proposed Second-Year Study file includes an index of topics covered in the committee's first year (1968), a summary of volunteer hours and public hearings held in 1968, a plan of study of second-year issues, and a summary of the second year's work (1969).
  - Materials Transferred
    - Removed a printout of votes for Nov. 3, 1970 ballot measure results.
  - Existence of Copies
    - The First Annual Report, Appendix B is a loose-leaf, mimeographed document.

| Box 1, Folder 26 | Index, [1970] |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Staff Report, February-March 1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | First Annual Report and Appendix A, June 1969 |

- **Box 2, Folders 1-2**
    - Bound Original Unknown
    - There are two copies, both in loose-leaf, mimographed form.
Series 3. Working Files and Ballot Measures, 1966-1971

Proposition E, 1966-1971

Table of Disposition, [1969?]
Substantive Deletions, [1969?]
Citizens Groups' Recommendations, 1966-1970
Government Recommendations, 1966-1971
Press Releases and Publicity, [1969]
Voter Registration Information, 1969
Voter Pamphlets, 1969
Ballot Arguments, 1969
Map of Vote (by Precinct), 1969
Proposed Second-Year Study, [1970?]

Proposition R, 1969-1972
Scope and Contents
Includes documents summarizing the changes undertaken from 1970 to 1971; memoranda, endorsements, and the committee's final report.

Index to Background Volumes, 1971

Background Volumes:
Recodified Charter, [1970?]

Scope and Contents
There are two versions (in loose-leaf format). One is undated and appears to be circa 1970. A revised version is dated 1971; there are two copies of this version.

Revised Charter (With Substantive Changes), 1971
Revised Budget Procedures, 1971
Compromises, [1971]
Retirement Provisions, [1971]
Recodified Charter Disposition, [1971?]
Recodified Charter Changes and New Amendments to Recodified Charter, 1971
Memoranda and Comments, 1970-[1971?]
"Saving" Clause, 1971
Transmittal, 1970-1971
Ballot Argument, 1971
Voter Pamphlets, 1971
Endorsements, 1971
Publication (AB 2373), 1969-1971
Final Report, June 1972

Scope and Contents
Physical Description: 0.4 cubic foot
Organized chronologically.
Contains meeting minutes and attendance log.
See also the Office Files series for the stenographer's minutes.

Attendance Log, 1968-1972
June 1968-August 1972

Physical Description: 0.45 cubic foot

Arrangement
Original order was maintained.

Scope and Contents
Office Files include committee documentation, stenographer's minutes, meeting attendance, correspondence, and voter pamphlets from prior elections. The Committee Dissolution file contains a Feb. 3, 1972 document summarizing discussion to continue the committee.

Box 3, Folder 9
Correspondence, 1970-1973

Box 3, Folder 10
Committee Membership, 1968-1972

Committee Member and Staff Files:
Box 3, Folder 11
Bunnin, J. Bradley, 1969

Box 3, Folder 12
Falknor, Richard W.C., 1968

Box 3, Folder 13
Frankel, James B., 1968-1969

Box 3, Folder 14

Box 3, Folder 15
Rodgers, Audrey P., 1970

Box 3, Folder 16
Williams, George A., 1969

Box 3, Folder 17
Minutes (Working Papers), 1969-1972

Box 3, Folder 18
Ford Foundation Grant (Possible), 1968

Box 3, Folder 19
Committee Dissolution, 1972-1973

Box 3, Folder 20
Public Notices, 1967-1972

Voter Pamphlets,

Box 3, Box 21
1932-1939

Box 3, Folder 22
1941-1948

Box 3, Folder 23
1950-1959

Box 3, Folder 24
1960-1968

Box 3, Folder 25
1969-1970


Physical Description: 1.15 cubic feet

Arrangement
Organized chronologically.

Scope and Contents
Contains press clippings documenting charter reform work and issues affecting city governance.

Box 3, Folders 26-27,
October, 1967-June 1972

Box 4, Folders 1-15

Box 4, Folder 16
Model Cities and Undated Articles, 1967-1968

Appendix A Materials Removed

General note

Charter documents of other cities (mainly in the United States, 1914-1970) were removed from the Comparative Studies series.

Alameda
Anaheim

Baltimore

Boston

Chicago

Chico

Denver

Detroit

Downey

Harrisburg

Hartford

Honolulu

London

Los Angeles

Miami

Milwaukee

Nashville

New York
Appendix B Titles Transferred to Catalog


San Francisco (Calif.). Charters. Charter of the City and County of San Francisco. San Francisco, Carlisle & Co., printers, 1908.

San Francisco (Calif.). Charters. Charter of the City and County of San Francisco. [San Francisco] Shannon-Conmy [1919].


Appendix C Titles Removed


Greer, Scott A. Governing the Metropolis. New York, Wiley [1962].

Handlin, Oscar and John E. Burchard. The Historian and the City. [Cambridge, MA]: M.I.T. Press, 1963.


