
Finding aid prepared by Tami Suzuki
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February 2009
Title: San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform Records

Date (inclusive): 1978-1996
Date (bulk): 1994-1995
Collection Identifier: SFH 32
Creator: San Francisco (Calif.). Board of Supervisors. Select Committee on Charter Reform.
Physical Description: 2 boxes (2.0 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

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Abstract: Documents the work of Supervisor Barbara Kaufman pertaining to the 1994 and 1995 charter reform committees. The records cover work leading up to the new charter measure, Proposition E, which voters approved on November 7, 1995. Materials include charter history, drafts and final text, reports, surveys, minutes and hearing summaries, public comments, a speakers manual, legal opinions, campaign materials, press releases, and newspaper clippings.

Physical Location: The collection is stored offsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access
The collection is open for research. A minimum of 2 working days' notice is required for use.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform Records (SFH 32), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
The San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform Records were transferred to the San Francisco Public Library by then-Supervisor Barbara Kaufman in 1996.

Related Materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee Records (SFH 33); San Francisco Charter Commission Records (SFH 25); Jack Morrison Papers (SFH 24); and the San Francisco History Center's subject and card files for related materials.

Biographical/Historical note
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. Over time, numerous incremental charter changes made governing arrangements more complex. Eventually, charter revision was attempted several times, resulting in little change. Charter reform was undertaken in 1994 and 1995 by the Board of Supervisors, resulting in the 1996 charter.

Earlier, three charter committees failed to provide recommendations for revision. A fourth committee made recommendations that appeared on the November 1969 ballot (Proposition E) but was defeated, 37 to 63 percent. A reconstituted committee then rearranged charter sections more logically, with no substantive changes. This recodification passed in November 1971 (Proposition R).

In 1980, an elected charter commission proposed a new, simplified charter to replace the existing charter that had been amended over 500 times. The proposed charter would have given more authority to the mayor, reduced the chief administrative officer's term from 10 to 4 years, reduced the controller's term from life to 6 years, required that women be included on each commission and board, and gave greater status to the Human Rights Commission. Proposition A failed, 46 percent to 54 percent, on Nov. 4, 1980.

In 1993, voters again mandated (through Proposition N) a thorough review and revision of the Charter. In 1994, the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Charter Reform was established. The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), which supported Proposition N, was instrumental in the process. Several proposals were floated.
the 1980 proposed charter as a starting point, Supervisor Barbara Kaufman and Mayor Frank Jordan's proposals were merged into one document. However, the Board of Supervisors declined to place a charter reform measure on the Fall 1994 ballot.

A new group was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1995, the Select Committee on Charter Reform, chaired by Supervisor Kaufman. Kaufman's legislative aide, T.J. Anthony, was significantly involved in the activities, as was SPUR. Like the 1994 proposal, the 1995 document was based on the 1980 proposed charter. Reform highlights included: shortening the 370-page document to 88 pages; modernizing the charter by eliminating sexist language, guaranteeing diversity and inclusion in city government, and protecting civil rights; merging the recorder and assessor functions; increasing government accountability; and giving some of the chief administrative officer's (CAO's) authority to the mayor while replacing the CAO with a city administrator with diminished authority. The measure, Proposition E, passed on Nov. 7, 1995, 58 percent to 42 percent, and the new charter became effective July 1, 1996.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the work of Supervisor Barbara Kaufman and the 1994 and 1995 charter reform committees. The records cover work leading up to the new charter measure, Proposition E, which voters approved on November 7, 1995; and the implementation of the new charter, which took effect on July 1, 1996. Materials include charter history, drafts and final text, reports, surveys, minutes and hearing summaries, public comments, a speakers manual, legal opinions, campaign materials, press releases, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

The collection is organized in five series: Series 1: Citizens' Advisory Committee Reports and Proposed Charter Text; Series 2: Select Committee Reports and Proposed Charter Text; Series 3: Ballot Measure Campaign; Series 4: Implementation; and Series 5: Reference materials. Within series, materials are arranged chronologically.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

San Francisco (Calif.). Board of Supervisors. Advisory Committee on Charter Reform -- Archives
County charters--California--San Francisco
Municipal charters--California--San Francisco
Summary of Draft Proposal, Jordan/Kaufman, June 8, 1994
Proposed Charter, Second Draft, June 12, 1994
Introduction of Charter Overhaul to Board, June 13, 1994
Major Issues, June 16, 1994
Comparison of Current Proposed Charters, June 17, 1994
Departmental Comments on Second Draft, June 1994
Statements to Board by Kaufman and Committee, June 21, 1994
Memoranda including Ballot Simplification, June 1994
Supervisors’ Rules Committee Review of Third Draft, July 1, 1994
Proposed Charter, Fourth Draft, July 5, 1994
Proposed Charter, Fifth Draft, July 12, 1994
Proposed Charter, Sixth Draft, July 12, 1994
Comments on Sixth Draft, July - August 1994
Changes to Sixth Draft, July 14-22, 1994
Draft Ballot Digest, July 20, 1994
Press Releases, July 15-24, 1994
Comparison of Key Features, July 22, 1994
Analysis of 1932 and Proposed Charters, [July 1994?]
Kaufman’s Statement to Board, [July 25, 1994?]
Commendation by Kaufman, July 30, 1994
Opinion Pieces, August 1994
Press Coverage, March - August 1994
First Draft, August 1, 1994
Resolution Extending Committee’s Term, August 8, 1994
T.J. Anthony’s Notes, September - December 1994

Series 2 Select Committee Reports and Proposed Charter Text, 1994-1995

Creation of Select Committee, [1994]
First Meeting, Kaufman’s Comments, December 8, 1994
Miscellaneous Issues, [1994-1995]
Legal Opinions on Text, January - August 1995
Changes to Text, [1995?]
Hearing Agenda and Kaufman’s Comments, February 9, 1995
Organizing Memoranda, February 1995
Calendars, February - June 1995
Possible Amendments to Second Draft, March - April 1995
Draft Comparison of 1994/95 (Second Draft) and 1980 Proposals with Current Charter, [March 1995?]
Second Draft and Comparison with 1932 Charter, March 1995
Minutes, April 26, 1995
Neighborhood Meeting Comments by Kaufman, May 2, 1995
Selected Comments on Second Draft, March - May 1995
Public Comments on Second Draft, March - June 1995
Board and Departmental Comments on Second Draft, April - June 1995
Inventory of Issues, Sue Hestor, May 4, 1995
Working Draft, May 18, 1995
Special Meeting on Amendments Proposed by Public, May 31 - June 1, 1995
Special Meeting on Amendments, June 15, 1995
Amendments 1-50, June 1995
Amendments 51-97, June 1995
Box 2, Folder 3  Communications with SF Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), June - July 1995
Box 2, Folder 4  Outreach Activities Plan and Summary, June - July 1995
Box 2, Folder 5  Third Draft and Comparison with 1932 Charter, June 19-23, 1995
Box 2, Folder 6  Comments on Third Draft, July 1995
Box 2, Folder 7  Third Draft, as Amended, and Comparison with 1932 Charter, July 11-19, 1995
Box 2, Folder 8  Charter Summary Binder with Third Draft Proposal, July 1995
Box 2, Folder 9  Support Letters to the Board, June - July 1995
Box 2, Folder 10  Press Clips, July 1995
Box 2, Folder 11  Kaufman's Remarks to Board on Proposed Charter, [July 24, 1995]
Box 2, Folder 12  Fourth Draft, July 24, 1995
Box 2, Folder 13  [Fourth Draft?], Appendix A, [July 24, 1995?]
Box 1, Folder 14  Comparison of 1932 and Fourth Draft Proposed Charters, September 1, 1995
Box 2, Folder 15  T.J. Anthony's Notes, [1995?]

Series 3 Ballot Measure Campaign, 1995
Physical Description: 0.3 cubic feet
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
Includes press releases, direct mail planning, and ballot arguments.

Box 2, Folder 16  "A Better Charter, A Better City": Handout, March 1995
Box 2, Folder 17  Ballot Simplification, July - September 1995
Box 2, Folder 18  Ordinance Authorizing the Measure, September 5, 1995
Box 2, Folder 19  Campaign Management, August - November 1995
Box 2, Folder 20  Press Releases and Fact Sheets, August - October 1995
Box 2, Folder 21  Press Clippings, August - December 1995
Box 2, Folder 22  Editorial Boards and Broadcast Interviews, August - November 1995
Box 2, Folder 23  Poll, August - October 1995
Box 2, Folder 24  Direct Mail Campaign, August - October 1995
Box 2, Folder 25  Direct Mail Pieces, [October] 1995
Box 2, Folder 26  Talking Points, [October 1995]
Box 2, Folder 27  Miscellaneous Endorsements, October 1995
Box 2, Folder 28  Sample Ballot, [October] 1995
Box 2, Folder 29  Text of Appendices A, B, C, and D, [October 1995]

Series 4 Implementation, 1996
Physical Description: 5.0 folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
Includes amendments.

Box 2, Folders 30-33  Amendments, May - November 1996
Box 2, Folder 34  Commendations for James Haas and T.J. Anthony, July 1, 1996

Physical Description: 8.0 folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
Includes articles on previous (San Francisco) charter revision efforts and other charter amendments.

Box 2, Folder 35  SF Charter Revision: Constitutional Power and Political Limitations (Student Paper), 1978
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 36</th>
<th>Proposition A Articles and Text, October 1980</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 37</td>
<td>Why Charter Reform Has Failed in San Francisco (Student Paper) 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 38</td>
<td>Proposition L, Human Resources Department, July 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 39</td>
<td>Sample Ballot, [May] 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 40</td>
<td>Voters Guide (League of Women Voters), [Oct.] 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 42</td>
<td>Charter Amendments, Los Angeles, April 1995</td>
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