Guide to the Judith Stanley Subject Files on Proposition 13

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Judith Stanley subject files on Proposition 13
Date: 1973-1980,
Date (bulk): bulk 1978
Collection Number: MS-R082
Creator: Stanley, Judith
Extent: 1.4 linear feet (2 boxes and 1 oversized folder)
Languages: The collection is in English and Spanish.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: This collection comprises newsletters, clippings, campaign ephemera, memoranda, reports, and other materials gathered by Judith Stanley, a University of California, Irvine, librarian, to document California's Proposition 13, a citizen's initiative to reduce property taxes that was approved as a State constitutional amendment on June 6, 1978. Included in the collection are materials from taxpayer associations, housing associations, and political coalitions, as well as files documenting the effect of the proposition on education, libraries, and Social Security.

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information
Transferred from the Government Information Department, 2001.

Processing History

Historical Background

Judith Stanley was a social sciences bibliographer for the University of California, Irvine libraries in the 1970s.

Commonly called the "Taxpayers' Revolt of 1978," Proposition 13 was a landmark citizen's initiative written and introduced in 1977 by politicians Howard Jarvis (1903-1986) and Paul Gann (1912-1989). This proposition fixed California property taxes at 1 percent of the full cash value of the property and set the maximum inflationary rate for property value at 2 percent per year. Property value is reassessed when property is purchased, newly constructed, or undergoing change in ownership. The proposition passed with 65 percent of the vote. Proponents of Proposition 13 cited the $6 billion state surplus as evidence of overtaxation and claimed that without the bill, property owners would eventually be unable to afford their property taxes. Opponents of the tax argued that the bill was unfair to renters because it only offered tax relief to owners, that it would take funds away from publicly funded government services, and that it would cause hundreds of thousands of job losses statewide. Proposition 13 continues to be a source of debate because new owners typically pay higher taxes than previous owners.

Biography/Organization History

1965 The San Francisco Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner publish series of stories about the inconsistent assessment of property taxes due to assessors accepting bribes.
1967 Assembly Bill 80, the Petris-Knox Bill, passes requiring county assessors to reassess property at 25 percent of market value during the following three years and to do frequent reassessments to maintain the 25 percent ratio.
1973 Ronald Reagan's Proposition 1 to limit state spending fails to pass in California.
1973-1977 California enters a period of rapid housing inflation, resulting in ever increasing property taxes.
1978 California's estimated budget surplus is $6 billion.
1978 Voters approve Proposition 13 on June 6th and it becomes a California constitutional amendment.
For further information about Proposition 13, see Frank Levy, On Understanding Proposition 13 (Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, 1979).

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection comprises newsletters, clippings, campaign ephemera, memoranda, reports, and other materials gathered by Judith Stanley, a University of California, Irvine, librarian, to document California Proposition 13, a citizen’s initiative to reduce property tax that was approved as a State constitutional amendment on June 6, 1978. Included in the collection are materials from taxpayer associations, housing associations, and political coalitions, as well as files documenting the effect of the proposition on education, libraries, and Social Security. In addition, this collection contains materials showing various reactions to the passage of Proposition 13, analyses of the effects of Proposition 13 in the two years following its passage, and campaign materials supporting the opposing proposition, Proposition 8.

**Collection Arrangement**

The original order of the collection has been maintained. The creator arranged the collection alphabetically according to subject.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Jarvis, Howard.
Gann, Paul,--1912-1989.
California. Proposition 13 (1978)--Archives.
Property tax--California--Archives.
Referendum--California--Archives.
Elections--California--Archives.
California--Politics and government--Archives.

**Genres and Formats of Materials**

Campaign literature--California--20th century.

Box : Folder 1 : 1  American Federation of Teachers of University of California clippings and memoranda 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 2  Anderson, Jack: clippings and correspondence 1978
  Biography/Organization History
  Washington, D.C. newspaper columnist.
Box : Folder 1 : 3  Apartment Association of Orange County clippings 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 4  Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee report 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 5  Associated Taxpayers of Idaho newsletters 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 6  Association of California School Administrators announcements, bulletins and other materials 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 7  Bank of America report, newsletter and other materials 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 8  Behr, Peter H.: report 1978
  Biography/Organization History
  Former California Senator for Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties.
Box : Folder 1 : 9  Berkeley (California) City Manager memorandum 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 10  Bibliographies 1977-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 11  Brown, Edmund G.: transcripts and clippings 1978
  Biography/Organization History
  Former Governor of California.
Box : Folder 1 : 12  California Association of Realtors clippings 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 13  California Congress of Parents and Teachers fliers 1978
Collection Contents

Box : Folder 1 : 14  California Department of Education newsletter 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 15  California Federation of Teachers newsletter and petitions 1978-1980
Box : Folder 1 : 16  California Housing Action and Information Network (CHAIN) clippings and correspondence 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 17  California Housing Council newsletters 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 18  California Housing Research Foundation newsletter 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 19  California Library Association memoranda 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 20  California Public Policy Center memoranda 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 21  California School Employees Association flier circa 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 22  California Senate, Office of Research report 1977
Box : Folder 1 : 23  California State Employees Association newsletters, fliers and other materials 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 24  California State Library newsletters 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 25  California State Parent Teacher Association (PTA) reports 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 26  California Tax Reform Association fliers 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 27  California Taxpayers Association newsletters, reports and other materials 1977-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 28  California voters pamphlet June 6 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 29  Campaign for Economic Democracy newsletter and flier 1978 undated
Box : Folder 1 : 30  Campaign pamphlets, mailings and other materials circa 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 31  Citizens Permanent Committee on the Recall of Public Officials correspondence and clippings 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 32  Citizens to Limit Government Spending correspondence 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 33  Claremont Men's College: Center for Study of Law Structures conference paper and correspondence 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 34  Common Cause reports and correspondence 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 35  Contra Costa Taxpayers Association report 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 36  Council of State Governments newsletters 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 37  Davis, Skaggs & Co., Inc.: Investment Research memorandum 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 38  Democratic Party newsletter 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 39  East Bay Regional Park District reports and clippings 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 40  The Equity Effects of Restraints on Taxing and Spending: report 1980
Box : Folder 1 : 41  Fiscal Limitation Movement bibliography and correspondence 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 42  Forecasting Local Government Budgets: report 1979
Box : Folder 1 : 43  Friedman, Milton: pamphlets, articles and other materials 1973-1978

Biography/Organization History

Awarded 1976 Nobel Prize for economic science.

Box : Folder 1 : 44  Hayward (California) City Manager memorandum 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 45  Henry George School of Social Science newsletters 1979
Box : Folder 1 : 46  Impact on arts: report 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 47  Impact on education: reports and clippings 1978-1979 undated
Box : Folder 1 : 48  Impact on libraries: articles, newsletters and other materials 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 49  Impact on museums: article 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 50  Impact on renters: article 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 51  Impact on Social Security: clipping 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 52  Impact on utilities and services: ephemera 1979
Box : Folder 1 : 53  Impact outside of California: pamphlets, reports and other materials 1977-1980
Box : Folder 1 : 54  Incentive taxation: correspondence 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 55  Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley: surveys and correspondence 1978-1979
Box : Folder 1 : 56  ITS Review newsletter and advertisement 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 57  Jarvis, Howard: article 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 58  Jarvis, Howard: lists and form letters to citizens groups involved in Proposition 13 undated
Box : Folder 1 : 59  Laguna Beach, California: dialogue on schools announcements 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 60  League of California Cities newsletters 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 61  League of California Cities reports, memoranda and other materials 1978
Box : Folder 1 : 62  League of Women Voters of California report undated

Guide to the Judith Stanley
Subject Files on Proposition 13

MS-R082 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Los Angeles Civic Center News newspaper 1978</td>
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<td>National Association of Counties report and correspondence 1978</td>
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<td>National Association of Realtors reports and correspondence 1978</td>
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<td>National Tax Association -- Tax Institute of America: brochure, correspondence and other materials 1978 undated</td>
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<td>National Tax-Limitation Committee correspondence 1978</td>
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<td>National Taxpayers Union mailings undated</td>
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<td>No on Proposition 13 Committee press releases, newsletters and other materials 1978</td>
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<td>Orange County (California) Citizens Direction Finding Commission report 1978</td>
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<td>University of California, Los Angeles Business Forecasting Project reports, correspondence and other materials 1978-1979</td>
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<td>Vote No on 13 Committee fliers, mailing lists and other materials 1978</td>
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Biography/Organization History

Former representative for the 23rd Assembly District of California.
Box: Folder FB30
: 5

Oversize ballot, posters and clipping 1978