



## Marshall E. Ford Constitutional Convention Papers (C0018)

**Collection Number:** C0018

**Collection Title:** Marshall E. Ford Constitutional Convention Papers

**Dates:** 1943-1944

**Creator:** Ford, Marshall E., 1870-1964

**Abstract:** Letters and papers of a Maryville, Missouri, lawyer and Democratic delegate from the 1st Senatorial District. Papers deal largely with work of various committees on which he served, especially the Committee on the Executive Department which he chaired.

**Collection Size:** 0.5 cubic feet  
(51 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Marshall E. Ford Constitutional Convention Papers* (C0018); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Marshall E. Ford on November 14, 1944 (Accession No. CA0175).

**Processed by:** Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 15, 2020.

**Historical Note:**

Marshall E. Ford was born in Nodaway County, Missouri, on 17 March 1870. He was graduated from Valparaiso Normal School and Drake University. After graduation he practiced law in Maryville, Missouri. In addition, he served as a member of the state senate, a circuit judge, and was representative from the 1st Senatorial District to the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1922-1923. Ford died on August 9, 1964.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Committees  
Miscellaneous Correspondence

**Scope and Content Note:**

More complete series descriptions are located in the container list.

**Container List:**

**Committees Series**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| f. 1-20  | Committee on Executive Department  |
| f. 1-9   | Suggested and corrected articles of the committee, especially Article V. Committee and subcommittee reports and proposals. Complete committee report submitted to President Blake by Chairman Ford. Various chairman's reports to the president and minutes of committee meetings. Two scripts of radio broadcasts and a subcommittee report of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce for the committee.   |
| f. 10-20 | Correspondence regarding work of this committee, especially letters from women urging Proposal 197, the short ballot, the merit system, cabinet form of Executive Department, and a parole board. Appraisal letters from the Kansas City and St. Louis Chambers of Commerce on various proposals. Recommendations by the Missouri League of Women Voters and a letter suggesting the creation of a secretariat to handle licenses. Correspondence from League of Women Voters disapproving election of the auditor and a preferential job list for |

- servicemen. Letter and subcommittee report of Wade W. Maupin. Letter from C.P. Damron criticizing final report of committee. Letters from Ford expressing regret that the report of this committee was changed.
- f. 21-26 Committee on Legislative Department. Subcommittee and committee reports, minutes, proposals, suggested substitutes and amendments, suggested legislative proceedings, and miscellaneous correspondence. Minority report and report of the committee. Treatise, "The Legislative Department," by V.E. Phillips and a paper on the legislative councils of various states. Recommendations of the Woman's City Club of Kansas City presented to committee, letters from the American Association of University Women urging a smaller House of Representatives, and a criticism by Ford directed to Stratford Lee Morton concerning his minority report on the Legislative Council.
- f. 27-32 Committee on Judicial Department. Proposals, subcommittee reports, minutes, and correspondence pertaining to the work of this committee. Letter from U.S. District Judge Merrill E. Otis on employment of district judges on Circuit Court of Appeals and on the system of transfer of judges. Nonpartisan Judiciary Compromise Plan for judges. Nonpartisan Judiciary Compromise Plan 2-A by Alroy S. Phillips and a letter from Horace Merritt of St. Joseph, Missouri, advocating reform of the justice of the peace system. Correspondence regarding office of probate judge and a letter from Glendy B. Arnold on importance of probate courts in more intensely populated areas.
- f. 33-37 Committee on Local Government. Minutes, proposals, substitutes for proposals, subcommittee and committee reports, and correspondence.
- f. 35 Minority report of committee
- f. 36-37 Correspondence between Ford and State Senator Francis Smith on county government. Letters of appraisal from the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce on various proposals of this committee.
- f. 38 Committee on Education. Correspondence urging state aid to public free libraries. An answer by Ford to Nell Hudson of the Maryville branch of the American Association of University Women in which he expresses his views on constitutional provision for public education. Letters from President Uel W. Lamkin of Northwest Missouri State Teachers College on educational matters. Letter from Grace M. Shepherd, professor of education, making suggestions concerning educational proposals. A letter from E. Earl Crader, superintendent of the Diehlstadt Consolidated School, opposing appointive plan for state officials in education.
- f. 39 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights, and Distribution of Powers. A letter from the Christian Science Committee on Publication for Missouri urging constitutional guarantee of religious freedom. Letter from Ford to P.M. Marr, chairman of this committee, on the proposed amendment to Section 3 pertaining to the authority of the legislature to adopt U.S. Constitutional amendments and the refusal

- of the people of the state to assent to such an amendment.
- f. 40-41 Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions
- f. 40 Report of a committee of the Illinois State Senate appointed to investigate the small loan situation in that state and used as source material by this committee in working on the section dealing with the fixing of interest rates
- f. 41 Correspondence regarding constitutional provision for maximum rate of interest on loans. Letter from Kansas City Chamber of Commerce criticizing the report of the committee.
- f. 42 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto. Letters from the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare and the Kansas City League of Women Voters urging constitutional establishment of a Department of Public Welfare.
- f. 43 Committee on Phraseology, Arrangement, and Engrossment. A memorandum regarding suggested arrangement of new constitution. Some suggested changes made by Ford on the report of the Committee on Phraseology.
- f. 44 Committee on Taxation--Levy, Assessment, and Collection. Limitations on the authority to increase the tax rates. Letter from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce criticizing the report of this committee. A letter urging approval of giving the General Assembly the power to authorize additional levies for libraries.
- f. 45 Committee on Corporations and Industry. A form letter to all delegates from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen urging that the employees of transportation companies who have free tickets or passes be allowed to hold municipal offices by amending that part of the constitution which prohibits public officers having passes.
- f. 46 Committee on Labor. Letters opposing amendment in the report of the committee permitting public employees to engage in political activities.
- f. 47 Committee on Highways. Letters opposing the proposal in the report of the committee which would give the Highway Commission full legal control of highways.
- f. 48 Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County). A letter from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce urging that committee minority report which would extend the boundary lines of the city of St. Louis be supported.
- f. 49 Committee on State Finance (except Taxation)--Expenditures, Public Indebtedness, and Restrictions Thereon. A letter from the Missouri Farmers Association opposing the omission of a part of section 13, article 5 of the constitution. Such omission would confer upon the governor the power to reduce appropriations for free public school purposes.

**Miscellaneous Correspondence Series**

- f. 50-51            Routine correspondence, especially from and to President Robert E. Blake.
- f. 50            A letter from State Senator Michael Kenney commending Ford's stand on closed meetings in the legislature.
- f. 51            Letter from Ford to Judge R.E. Culver of St. Joseph, Missouri, commenting on the work of the convention, especially that of the committees on which he served. Letters from the Missouri League of Women Voters, St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and others criticizing various proposals. A letter to A.G. Taubert, chairman of the Committee on Information, commenting on the attitude of newspapers in his district regarding constitutional convention action.

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