



Allen McReynolds Constitutional Convention Papers (C0023)

Collection Number: C0023

Collection Title: Allen McReynolds Constitutional Convention Papers

Dates: 1941-1944

Creator: McReynolds, Allen, 1877-1960

Abstract: Letters and papers of a Democratic delegate-at-large and chair of the State-Wide Committee for the Revision of the Missouri Constitution. He was chair of the Committee on Rules and Order of Business, and served on the Committees on Executive Department; Legislative Department; Printing; Reporting and Publications; Convention Library, Information and Research; and Phraseology, Arrangement and Engrossment.

Collection Size: 2.75 cubic feet
(275 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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Allen McReynolds Constitutional Convention Papers* (C0023); 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 Allen McReynolds on 5 December 1944 (Accession No. CA0188). An addition was made on 11 March 1946 by Allen McReynolds.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Allen McReynolds Constitutional Convention Papers can be found in the following collection:

[*Allen McReynolds Papers \(C3605\)*](#)

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:

Allen McReynolds was born in Carthage, Missouri, on 7 November 1877. He attended the public schools there, and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1901. He was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1903. An active lawyer and businessman in southwest Missouri, McReynolds also served in many capacities in state government. In addition to his service on several state committees and commissions, he was a state senator from 1935 to 1943 and a member of the University's Board of Curators from 1945 to 1951.

McReynolds married Maude Atwood Clarke, also of Carthage, and they were the parents of two children, Helen Elizabeth McReynolds Rozier and Allen McReynolds, Jr. Allen McReynolds died on September 29, 1960.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Committees
Miscellaneous Papers and Correspondence

Scope and Content Note:

More complete series descriptions are located in the container list.

Container List:

Committees Series

- f. 1-69 State-Wide Committee for the Revision of the Missouri Constitution
- f. 1-22 Correspondence on organization, research, appointments, and speeches and radio addresses, and on support by churches,

organizations, and newspapers. Much of the correspondence is between McReynolds and Louise Grant Smith, executive director of the committee; Robert Kratky, assistant to the president of the committee; and Howard Elliott, chairman of the board of directors.

- f. 1 Letter from Louise Smith stating the League of Women Voters keen opposition to McReynolds as chairman of the Missouri Prohibition committee and getting McReynolds' sentiments about running as a candidate to the convention on the Prohibition Party ticket.
- f. 3-4 Criticism from Smith because of McReynolds' delay in appointing her executive director. Differences of opinion between Stratford Lee Morton and others on the committee.
- f. 7 Letter from Robert Kratky discussing Governor Donnell's views on the convention.
- f. 8-11 Problems of the finance committee
- f. 12-14 Opinions from Harry S Truman and Orville Zimmerman about calling the constitutional convention
- f. 17-19 Black support for the calling of the convention
- f. 23-69 Correspondence written after vote on proposal to call a constitutional convention. Letters of congratulations to McReynolds on the successful vote and expressions of regret at his defeat in the state legislature race. Work and financing of the committee, the procedure for selecting candidates for delegates-at-large, and how far the committee should go in influencing the selections.
- f. 25-36 Letters pertaining to a special research committee and appointments to the committee. Allen McReynolds filing as a delegate-at-large and also the filing of petitions and letters favoring him as president of the convention. Other proposed delegates-at-large.
- f. 53 Letters of congratulation to McReynolds upon his election as a delegate-at-large and favorable comments on his address about revising the constitution. Requests for material on the revision of the constitution.
- f. 64 Letter from Robert Kratky informing McReynolds that he might be losing St. Louis County support for president of the convention to Robert E. Blake.
- f. 70-79 Committee on Rules and Order of Business
 - f. 70-71 Miscellaneous undated papers, resolutions, memoranda on proposed amendments, and reports
 - f. 72 Amendments to the permanent rules of order of the convention
 - f. 73 Proposed rules
 - f. 74-76 Reports of the committee chairman to the president of the convention
 - f. 77-79 Routine correspondence

- f. 80-84 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers
 - f. 80 Argument in favor of retaining the constitutional provision that in defamation cases the jury shall be the judge of the law and the fact.
 - f. 81 Paper on libel and slander
 - f. 82-84 Correspondence, especially pertaining to whether judges or juries shall be the judge of the law and fact.
- f. 85-103 Committee on Legislative Department
 - f. 85 Amendments, substitutes for amendments, and resolutions
 - f. 86-92 Reports on representation and apportionment, legislative procedures, and limitations on legislative power
 - f. 96-103 Miscellaneous correspondence, including letters for and against a unicameral legislature. Letters from a cross section of Nebraska businessmen on their unicameral legislature.
- f. 104-116 Committee on Executive Department
 - f. 104-108 Proposed amendments, recommendations, minutes of committee meetings, and subcommittee reports.
 - f. 109-110 Several papers on Article V
 - f. 111-116 Correspondence regarding the merit system, the cabinet system, and the power of the governor to pardon but not to parole. Letters of appraisal from the St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce. Letter from Missouri Farmers Association urging that governor have authority to reduce appropriations for free public school purposes. Remarks by Lewis F. Meador on the cabinet system.
- f. 111-131 Committee on Judicial Department
 - f. 117-120 Brochure on administrative law, report on the courts of New Jersey, and treatise on jurisdiction of probate courts.
 - f. 121-124 Committee reports, and papers concerning jurisdiction, amendments and proposals
 - f. 125-131 Correspondence relating to the nonpartisan court plan, the jurisdiction of appeals in Public Service Commission cases, and from the Missouri Bar Association. Resolutions and correspondence pertaining to probate courts.
- f. 132 Committee on Impeachments and Removals from Office
- f. 133 Committee on Suffrage and Elections
- f. 134-136 Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and Jackson County)
 - f. 134 Paper prepared by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce on the St. Louis City/St. Louis County relationship and problems.
 - f. 135-136 Correspondence urging constitutional correction of boundary restrictions on the City of St. Louis, a letter protesting the extension of incorporated city boundaries into adjoining unincorporated areas without the consent of the residents, and a letter of appraisal from the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

- f. 137-142 Committee on Local Government
 - f. 138 Proposals, amendments, and committee substitutes for proposals
 - f. 139-141 Memorandum from the Missouri League of Women Voters on the merit system. Correspondence regarding the extension of corporate limits for purposes of taxation, sewer necessities, and abolition of the fee system in local government.
- f. 143-157 Committee on Taxation--Levy, Assessment and Collection
 - f. 143 Amendments
 - f. 144 Memorandum regarding sale of property for delinquent taxes
 - f. 146 Bulletins on taxation
 - f. 147-157 Correspondence regarding the evaluation of personal property, tax limitations upon municipalities, authorization for additional levies for libraries and public health, increase of taxes on real estate, and placing road districts under control of county courts.
- f. 158-163 Committee on State Finance (except Taxation)--Expenditures, Public Indebtedness and Restrictions Thereon
 - f. 158 Paper on local government bonds
 - f. 159 Proposals, amendments, and a paper on state finance
 - f. 160-163 Letters from the following: the United workers for the blind of Missouri regarding pensions for the blind; Carl Trauernicht; the St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce; and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.
- f. 164-166 Committee on Education. Summary of county superintendents' annual reports and letter urging free public library service. Letter from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urging no racial segregation in public schools; other letters from individuals insisting on segregation. Letters from E. E. Crader, past president of the Southeast Missouri Teachers Association, opposing appointed state board of education and state superintendent, and from Amos L. Herold, urging democratization of schools and colleges.
- f. 167-170 Committee on Corporations and Industry
- f. 171-175 Committee on Highways
- f. 176-194 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation
 - f. 176 *The Constitution and Conservation* by the Conservation Federation of Missouri
 - f. 177-182 Proposals, amendments, resolutions, and committee and subcommittee reports
 - f. 183-186 Bulletin on Missouri forests, 1943 report of the Missouri Conservation Commission, and Wildlife/Forestry Code, 1944.
 - f. 187-194 Correspondence
- f. 195 Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial and Representative Districts
- f. 196-200 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations With Respect Thereto
- f. 201 Committee on Military Affairs
- f. 202-204 Committee on Labor

- f. 205 Committee on Initiative and Referendum, Revisions and Amendments
- f. 206-207 Committee on Information, Submission and Address to the People
- f. 208-221 Committee on Phraseology, Arrangement and Engrossment
- f. 222 Committee on Accounts, Employees, Services and Supplies
- f. 223-226 Committee on Printing, Reporting and Publications. Includes memo on 1922-1923 constitutional convention.
- f. 227-232 Committee on Convention Library, Information, and Research
 - f. 227-230 Research papers on earlier Missouri constitutional conventions, merit systems of other states, state bonds and taxation and outline of research subjects.
 - f. 231 List of information requests and a report of services and activities
 - f. 232 Librarian reports

Miscellaneous Papers and Correspondence Series

- f. 233-247 Miscellaneous papers and correspondence coming under no particular committee heading.
 - f. 234 Resolutions and official tabulation of votes for constitutional convention delegates
 - f. 235-237 Correspondence regarding qualifications, credentials, and certification of delegates to the convention
 - f. 238-242 Letters of appreciation and acknowledgement
 - f. 243-247 Letters of application for work with the convention
- f. 248-249 Robert E. Blake. Correspondence between McReynolds and Blake mostly pertaining to the mechanics of the convention.
- f. 250-252 Missouri Public Expenditure Survey. Bulletins.
- f. 253-254 Governmental Research Institute. Publications
- f. 255-257 Constitutional Convention News. Publication of Committee on Information, Submission and Address to the People.
- f. 258-267 Bulletins. Miscellaneous publications pertaining to the convention.
- f. 268-272 Clippings
- f. 273-275 Political
 - f. 273 Correspondence between Governor Forrest C. Donnell and McReynolds regarding the latter's service on a legislative committee for the reorganization of certain departments of state government. Lists of delegates to the 1944 Democratic national convention from Missouri.
 - f. 274-275 Miscellaneous senatorial papers from 1941

Index:

Subject	Folders
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	169,170
Chamber of Commerce, Carthage, Missouri	173,174
Chamber of Commerce, Joplin, Missouri	173,174

Subject	Folders
Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, Missouri	100,111,125,136,140,147,155,162,203
Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis, Missouri	105,115,134-136,191,203,240
Christian Science	81
Donnell, Forrest C. (1884-1980)	7
Education	164-166
Jenner, William E. (1908-)	811
Labor unions	100, 169-170, 202-204
Libraries	59, 143-147, 152, 164-166, 261
McReynolds, Allen (1877-1960)	1-275
Missouri Association for Social Welfare	198
Missouri Democratic State Committee	48
Missouri Farmers Association	49, 112-113, 175, 194
Missouri League of Women Voters	1, 23-69, 96, 111-116
Missouri Public Expenditure Survey	250-252
Missouri. Conservation Commission	176-194
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1922-1923	224
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944	1-275
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Accounts, Employees, Services and Supplies	222
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Agriculture and Conservation	176-194
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial and Representative Districts	195
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Convention Library, Information and Research	227-232
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Corporations and Industry	167-170
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Education	164-166
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Executive Department	104-116
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Highways	171-175
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Impeachments and Removals from Office	132
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944.	206-207

Subject	Folders
Committee on Information, Submission and Address to the People	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Initiative and Referendum, Revision and Amendments	205
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Judicial Department	117-131
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Labor	202-204
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Legislative Department	85-103
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government	137-142
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County)	134-136
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Military Affairs	201
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Phraseology, Arrangement and Engrossment	208-221
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers	80-84
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Printing, Reporting and Publications	223-226
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect thereto	196-200
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Rules and Order of Business	70-79
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on State Finance (except Taxation)--Expenditures, Public Indebtedness and Restrictions thereon	158-163
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Suffrage and Elections	133
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Taxation--Levy, Assessment and Collection	143-157
Missouri. Highway Commission	171-175
Missouri. Highway Department	96, 171-175

Subject	Folders
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	165
Race relations	164-165
Real Estate Business	150-157
Schools	147-157, 164-166
St. Louis Real Estate Exchange	152
State-Wide Committee for the Revision of the Missouri Constitution	1-69
Trauernicht, Carl	144
Truman, Harry S (1884-1972)	12
United Workers for the Blind of Missouri	160
Zimmerman, Orville	14