



Stratford Lee Morton Constitutional Convention Papers (C0024)

Collection Number: C0024

Collection Title: Stratford Lee Morton Constitutional Convention Papers

Dates: 1941-1945

Creator: Morton, Stratford Lee, 1887-1970

Abstract: Papers concerning the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943-1944. Morton was chairman of the St. Louis and St. Louis County committee, and treasurer of the statewide committee to raise funds for the convention. He championed unicameralism and served as a delegate-at-large and chairman of the Library Committee.

Collection Size: 5.75 cubic feet
(379 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] *Stratford Lee Morton Constitutional Convention Papers* (C0024); 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 S.L. - Morton on 6 January 6, 1956 (Accession No. CA3256). An addition was made on December 5, 1958 by S.L. Morton (Accession No. CA3371).

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Historical Note:

Morton was chairman of the St. Louis and St. Louis County committee, and treasurer of the statewide committee to raise funds for the convention. He championed unicameralism and served as a delegate-at-large and chairman of the Library Committee. A complete biographical sketch of Morton is included in folder 376.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following nine series:

Call for Convention
State-Wide Committee for Revision of Constitution
Campaign for Delegate
Correspondence
Committees
Speeches
Reference Materials
Political
Miscellaneous

Scope and Content Note:

More complete series descriptions are located in the container list.

Container List:

Call for Convention Series

- f. 1-5 Correspondence about organizing the St. Louis committee and about its subsequent campaign for calling a constitutional convention. Invitations to and replies from civic and political leaders to support the call for a convention. Letters discussing the work of individuals and subcommittees for fund raising, speakers, radio, and printed advertising in campaign to call committee. Correspondence with members of State-Wide Committee for Constitution Revision about progress of campaign and about cooperation of State-Wide and St. Louis Committees.
- f. 6-9 Correspondence revealing friction between St. Louis and state-wide

- committees over control of educational and delegate selection campaign prior to constitution committee. Letters of recommendation for constitution committee delegates from individuals and civic organizations; correspondence about St. Louis Committee's efforts to win support for its candidates for delegates from political parties (including Communist Party) and public. A discussion of the ineligibility of 18 of the elected delegates.
- f. 10-11 Miscellaneous material from St. Louis committee's campaigns for call of constitutional convention and election of delegates; lists of candidates for and delegates to constitutional convention from state senatorial districts, of citizens committee for the new Constitution, of St. Louis and outstate civic and business leaders, of registered voters of six St. Louis precincts, of Democratic and Republican St. Louis City Central Committee's, of miscellaneous names; candidate questionnaires, notes, drafts of letters, advertisements, press clippings, schedules for speakers.
- f. 12-16 Financial records
- f. 12 Financial correspondence of the St. Louis Committee. Correspondence in regard to pledges and contributions from individuals and organizations, procedures for opening, using, and closing checking account.
- f. 13 Cancelled checks and bills
- f. 16 Bank and checkbook

State-Wide Committee for Revision of Constitution Series

- f. 17-24 Correspondence about organizing the State-Wide Committee for the Revision of Missouri Constitution and about its subsequent campaign for calling a constitutional convention. Letters: membership and meetings, campaign issues, publications, press reaction, deductibility of contributions from income tax, Kansas City campaign. Correspondence: organization and personnel of sub-committees for press, radio, finance, speakers, research, liaison. Letters: politicians' and parties' attitudes on constitution revision and organizations that supported campaign. Correspondence: pressure to dissolve committee, and McReynold's candidacy as delegate-at-large.
- f. 25-26 Employee salaries and expense accounts, postage, publications, stationary, office equipment rental, telephone, fund raising, procedure for bill payments, budget forecasts, Jackson County Committee funds.
- f. 27-35 Financial records: cancelled checks, bills, bank, and checkbook. Contributions.

Campaign for Delegate Series

- f. 36 Correspondence: biographical sketches, press releases for Morton and Robert E. Blake

- f. 37 Letters: Morton's nominating petitions and his election
- f. 38 Correspondence: Horton's certificate of election and campaign expenses
- f. 39 Letters: Morton's official photograph as delegate
- f. 40 Nominating petitions. Campaign broadside.

Correspondence Series

- f. 41-47 Pre-Convention
 - f. 41-43 Correspondence: Morton's mailing *Model State Constitution* to delegates. Letters regarding reference material for constitutional revision. Completion of Morton's scrapbook.
 - f. 44-47 Correspondence with Martin L. Faust, Marshall E. Ford, and Richard S. Righte, regarding Missouri House Bill 50 and Senate Bill 137 on appropriating funds for constitutional revision research. Information concerning publication of reference material for constitutional committee discussion of issues and bibliography on constitution revision.
- f. 48-59 Reform and Research Organizations Correspondence and Publications
 - f. 48 Governmental Research Institute correspondence regarding constitutional reform and requests for Missouri Constitutional Convention *Journal and Proposals*.
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 - f. 51-55 Correspondence and publications of the Missouri and St. Louis chapters of the League of Women voters pertaining to choice of delegates, constitutional issues, publicity for convention.
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 - f. 57-59 Minutes of League's council meetings. Publications on New York and New Jersey Constitution Revision.
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 - f. 60-61 Correspondence: the organization of a state-wide citizens committee for governmental reform. Morton's support of Robert E. Blake for President, constitution committee issues and proposals. Campaign for Constitution adoption.
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 - f. 63 Correspondence: applications for employment as secretary, bill drafter, sergeant-at-arms, reporter, postmaster, engrossing clerk at Constitutional Convention. Joseph E. Burger and Governor

- Forrest Donnell about a job for Harold D. Carey on St. Louis County Election Board.
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- f. 85-89 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation
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- f. 91 File 21 and proposals, list and map of Missouri Senatorial districts in 1940. Newspaper clipping.
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- f. 119 *Levies for Missouri School Districts, 1942-1943. The State Constitution and Education, 1943. School and Community*, September, 1944. All published by Missouri State Teachers Association.
- f. 120 Missouri Library Association *Quarterly and Supplement*, September, 1943
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