



E. McDonald Stevens Constitutional Convention Papers (C0029)

Collection Number: C0029

Collection Title: E. McDonald Stevens Constitutional Convention Papers

Dates: 1943-1944

Creator: Stevens, E. McDonald, 1893-1944

Abstract: Letters and papers of a St. Louis lawyer and Republican delegate from the 25th senatorial district. He was chairman of the Committee on Suffrage and Elections and served on the Committees of the Judicial Department, Local Government, and Miscellaneous Provisions.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(84 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] *E. McDonald Stevens Constitutional Convention Papers* (C0029); 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 E. McDonald Stevens on October 26, 1944 (Accession No. CA0171).

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Historical Note:

E. McDonald Stevens was born in Clayton, Missouri. He was a graduate of the St. Louis University Law School and practiced law in St. Louis. He was a state representative from St. Louis County from 1920 to 1922.

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. 1-15 | Committee on Suffrage and Elections |
| f. 1-7 | Committee minutes, reports and proposals |
| f. 2 | Resolution by the League of Municipalities of St. Louis County opposing Proposal 258 whereby Boards of Registration would conduct all elections |
| f. 4 | Resolution by the Democratic Women's National Council favoring absentee voting |
| f. 8-13 | Correspondence mostly deals with voter registration, absentee voting, and holding or elections. Folders 8 and 11 contain suggestions on suffrage and elections by the Missouri League of Women Voters. |
| f. 9 | Manual on the Bill of Rights and Suffrage and Elections |
| f. 11 | Letters from Missouri Congressmen urging absentee voting for Missourians out of state, including two from Harry S. Truman. |
| f. 12 | Letter protesting methods of Board of Education of University City in assessing taxes; a resolution of the Missouri Society of Washington, D. C., in favor of out of state voting; newspaper article giving pros and cons of |

- lowering voting age.
- f. 13 Tentative statement of this committee and a speech by Honorable E. H. Moore in the United States Senate on “Wartime Methods of Voting by members of the Armed Forces.”
- f. 14 Letter from E. T. Harris, President of the Cameron, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, expressing the general sentiment of that section against a general lowering of the voting age. Letters urging that school elections be kept out of politics.
- f. 15 Journals of the Constitutional Convention and a United States Senate document on Wartime Method of Voting by Members of the Armed Forces
- f. 16-28 Committee on Judicial Department
 - f. 16-22 Proposals and modifications of proposals by this committee, reports of subcommittees on Appellate Courts, Probate Courts, Magistrate Courts, County Courts and Justices or the Peace.
 - f. 19 Some proposed changes in the Judiciary by the Convention of 1922
 - f. 21 Bulletin entitled “Suggestions on Support of Retaining Judicial Selection Plan Embodied in 1940 Amendment and Proposals 21 and 251.”
 - f. 22 “A Treatise on the Constitutional Jurisdiction of Probate Courts” by Glendy B. Arnold, Probate Judge of St. Louis City
 - f. 23 Editorial condemning former Senator James A. Reed for his attack on the nonpartisan court plan
 - f. 24 Letter from Judge Kimbrough Stone about the system of transfer of judges and one from Merrill B. Otis, United States District Court, regarding the employment of district judges on the Circuit Court of Appeals.
 - f. 25 Letter from the Missouri Probate Judges Association objecting to the proposal that probate judges be licensed attorneys
 - f. 26 Statement of H. Sam Priest, Clerk of Circuit Court, City of St. Louis
 - f. 28 Two letters from members of Republican City Central Committee in St. Louis opposing nonpartisan plan, short ballot and merit system
- f. 29-42 Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and Jackson County)
 - f. 29-34 General correspondence; proposals, amendments, and arguments for and against consolidation of St. Louis and St. Louis County.
 - f. 31 Committee compromise on the city and county matter
 - f. 32 Letter of opinion from Stevens and a quotation from G. C. Varnum, President of St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce
 - f. 33 Letter from Mayor Kaufman of St. Louis and a pamphlet

- from his office to the convention urging enlargement of boundaries of City of St. Louis
- f. 34 Resolution from the Board of Aldermen of City of St. Louis and a letter from the Chamber of Commerce of St. Louis on the city and county consolidation matter.
- f. 35-42 General correspondence, papers, newspaper articles of this committee. Most of the correspondence is from St. Louis County municipalities opposing Proposal 96 on consolidation and letters from St. Louis City and Kansas City favoring its passage.
- f. 36 Resolution of the League of Municipalities of St. Louis County concerning the power of certain cities to frame and adopt charters
- f. 38 *County Government Manual for the Missouri Constitutional Convention 1943* by Dr. W. L. Bradshaw of the University of Missouri
- f. 40 Letter from the Governmental Research Institute on the home rule proposal
- f. 41-42 Letters opposing the fee system for local officers
- f. 43-49 Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions. Various letters and papers pertaining to the work of this committee.
- f. 43 *A Manual for Grand Jurors in the City of New York*
- f. 44 Resolutions and reports
- f. 45 Letters from W.C.T.U. organizations urging Stevens' support of local option
- f. 46 Two comprehensive statements by Al Wallace, Secretary of Missouri Association of Personal Finance Company, and James C. Conzelman, Assistant of President of American Investment Company, opposing constitutional limit on interest rates.
- f. 48-49 Miscellaneous correspondence about constitutional maximum interest rates, retention of Grand Jury System, and statutory limitation and abrogation for injuries resulting in death.
- f. 50-57 Committee on Taxation, Levy, Assessment, and Collection. General correspondence, papers and pamphlets related to the work of this committee, especially that of proposed constitutional increases in tax rates for public education and pleas for constitutional provision for public libraries.
- f. 54 Bulletin, *The Taxation of Intangibles in Missouri and the Other States* by the Government Research Institute
- f. 55 Resolution from Webster Groves City Council urging sales tax exemption for municipal purchases and correspondence urging support of public libraries.
- f. 56-57 Letters from the St. Louis Real Estate Exchange and real estate owners protesting the proposal allowing increases school taxes
- f. 58-62 Committee on Education. Correspondence, bulletins, and papers concerning the work of this committee.

- f. 60 Missouri Library Commission reports
- f. 62 Correspondence urging the development of public libraries as a phase of education, a letter from E. E. Crader, past President of Southeast Missouri Teachers Association, opposing appointive system of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.
- f. 66-67 Committee on Legislative Department. Bulletins and pamphlets giving the pros and cons of a unicameral legislature and several speeches on the subject by the Honorable George W. Norris of Nebraska. Bulletin, *The Structure of the Legislature: Bicameralism vs. Unicameralism for the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943*
- f. 67 Letter from the United Workers for the Blind of Missouri urging constitutional provision for a special tax and special fund to provide pensions for the blind
- f. 68-71 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation. Proposals, bulletins, and correspondence dealing with the work of this committee, especially in favor of the retention of the bipartisan, four member commission.
- f. 70 Statements to this committee by E. Sydney Stephens, Chairman of the Missouri Conservation Commission and I. T. Bode, Director of the Missouri Conservation Commission.
- f. 71 Resolutions and letters urging no change in the Conservation Commission
- f. 72-75 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto. Miscellaneous pamphlets and statements pertaining to the work of this committee.
- f. 72 *Manual on Federal-State Relations for the Missouri Constitutions Convention of 1943*
- f. 73 Article on Naturopathy, a bulletin opposing inoculation
- f. 74-75 O. C. Tees warning against Federal Bureaucracy and correspondence urging acceptance of the Minority Report rather than the Majority report of the committee
- f. 76-77 Committee on Highways
- f. 76 *History of the Missouri Highway Department*, issued by the Missouri Highway Department
- f. 77 "A Plea for a Permissive Parkway Policy in the 1944 Missouri Constitution," proposals and correspondence concerning these proposals.
- f. 78 Committee on Corporations and Industry. *Report to Missouri Bar Association for Missouri Constitutional Convention Concerning, General Business Corporations*; letter from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen urging that 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. 79 Committee on Labor. Miscellaneous correspondence: File 10. Most of this deals with the amendment providing that all public officers and

- employees in the state have the right to become members of political parties and participate in the activities thereof.
- f. 80-81 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers. Correspondence and papers: constitutional amendment providing for jury service for women.
- f. 80 Material showing the action of other states on the problem
- f. 81 Telegrams and letters urging elimination from the constitution all reference to sex which discriminates against women. A number of these papers have Stevens' notes on the subject.

Miscellaneous Correspondence Series

- f. 82-84 Routine correspondence to and from President Blake, letters from individuals urging Stevens' approval or veto of various proposals. Miscellaneous bulletins and clippings.

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