



Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis Records (S0534)

Collection Number: S0534

Collection Title: Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis Records

Dates: 1977-1990

Creator: Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis

Abstract: This collection contains meeting minutes, correspondence, financial reports, and flyers pertaining to the Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis, a pro-choice coalition formed after the *Roe vs. Wade* decision of 1973.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(20 folders, 4 photographs)

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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis Records* (S0534); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection by Jean Berg on December 26, 1995 (Accession No. CA5584).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis Records can be found in the following collections:

[Committee for Free Choice Records](#) (C3707)

[Barbara J. McGough Papers](#) (S1099)

[Western Historical Manuscript Collection, St. Louis, Vertical File Collection](#) (S0694)

[St. Louis Lesbian and Gay Archives Collection](#) (S0545)

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, October 2023

Historical Note:

The Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis, formerly Missourians for the Freedom to Choose Abortion, was founded in 1977 in response to rising opposition to the legalization of abortion and to preserve and protect a women's right to choose. The Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis first worked as a women's support group and to lobby for pro-choice legislation in the Missouri General Assembly.

In 1979, the council changed its purpose to form a coalition of pro-choice groups throughout St. Louis County, which would increase the exchange of information about political, legislative, and judicial action on abortion. Groups such as Planned Parenthood of St. Louis, Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion, and St. Louis County chapters of the National Organization for Women made up the council. Pro-choice groups participating in the coalition would pay yearly dues to fund events such as the yearly celebration of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision and trips to the Missouri State Capitol to lobby for pro-choice legislation. Maureen McCarthy, former coordinator of Planned Parenthood's planning information center hotline and director of the Abortion Rights Alliance, and Anne Cox, state coordinator of the Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, led the coalition. The group remained active until 1990.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged alphabetically by subject into twenty folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis Records contains correspondence, meeting minutes, pamphlets, and flyers chronicling the group's effort to protect abortion rights in Missouri from 1977 to 1990. The meeting minutes document the monthly meetings of the group and contains topics such as event planning, new pro-choice groups joining the Freedom of Choice Council, and the creation of booths at St. Louis-based events, including International Women's Day and "I Love You, North St. Louis." Other materials of interest include legislative updates created by the group regarding federal and state legislation concerning abortion, correspondence from Planned Parenthood of St. Louis regarding their decision to leave the Freedom of Choice Council due to lack of staffing, and pamphlets documenting the history and goals of the Freedom of Choice Council of Greater St. Louis.

Container List:

- | | |
|------|---|
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| f. 2 | Correspondence, 1978-1987 |
| f. 3 | Employee time sheet, and exhibit applications, 1985-1987 |
| f. 4 | Expense and income reports, 1982-1985 |
| f. 5 | Financial and treasurer reports, 1980-1984 |
| f. 6 | Flyers, pamphlets, and programs, 1978-1987 |
| f. 7 | Ledger, 1983-1986 |
| f. 8 | Legislative lobbying, 1981-1987 |

f. 9	Mailing lists, 1986
f. 10	Meeting agendas, 1981-1986
f. 11-12	Meeting minutes, 1978-1987
f. 13	Membership dues and contributions, 1985-1987
f. 14	Memos, 1981-1988
f. 15	Newsletters, 1977-1983
f. 16	Newspaper clippings, 1978-1988
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