

MS-346

Charles J. Curran Papers

**Special Collection and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

**Processed by:
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INTRODUCTION

Charles J. Curran donated his papers to Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in December 2006. The collection is 8 Hollinger boxes (3.5 linear feet).

The collection includes correspondence, speeches, campaign information, photographs, certificates, advertisements, news clippings, and research documents. Most items are by or about Charles J. Curran and his time as Montgomery County Commissioner from 1983-2006. A few items in the collection relate to other local politicians or Curran family members, Mara (his wife), Rachele and Colleen (his daughters), or James Charles (his son).

The Charles J. Curran papers date from 1941-2006, although the majority of the collection dates from 1990-2006. This collection documents Dayton and Montgomery County politics, including Charles Curran's switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party in 1996.

There are no restrictions on the use of the Charles J. Curran Papers.

The Charles J. Curran Papers are organized into 8 series:

- Series I: Correspondence
- Series II: Speeches
- Series III: Campaign / Election information
- Series IV: Photographs
- Series V: Certificates / Awards / Events
- Series VI: Advertisements / Sponsorships
- Series VII: Research
- Series VIII: Personal

Biographical Sketch

Charles J. Curran was born on June 1, 1939 in Galion, OH. His father was a railroad worker, so the family moved around quite a bit. He graduated from Bellefontaine High School in Bellefontaine, Ohio in 1958. After high school, Curran ended up in Charleston, Illinois where he earned a bachelor's degree in government and library science from Eastern Illinois University in 1963. He also completed some graduate work at Miami University and the University of Dayton.

Curran came to Dayton, Ohio in 1963 to handle government documents for the Dayton Public Library. He then worked as a Social Sciences teacher at Fairborn High School (OH) from 1963 to 1965, and as a Reference Librarian at Belmont High School (OH) from 1965-1966. In 1966, Curran was hired as a Political Science instructor at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio.

On June 15, 1963, Curran married Mara Ann Wahl (born October 19, 1941). They had three children: Colleen (born April 9, 1964), Rachelle (born October 9, 1966), and James Charles (born September 5, 1985).

Curran served as a Democrat on the city commission of Dayton from 1970 to 1979. He then served as the Democratic Ohio State Senator for the 6th district from 1979 to 1983. In 1983, Charles began his first of 6 four-year terms as Montgomery County Commissioner (served 1983-2006). In 1996, Charles switched to the Republican Party. In November 2006, he was defeated by Democratic candidate, Dan Foley.

As of March 2007, Curran continues to serve as Associate Professor of Political Science at Sinclair Community College.

Scope and Content Note

The Charles J. Curran Papers document the career of an important Montgomery County politician. Through these papers, researchers may gain insight into politics in late 20th century to early 21st century in Dayton, Ohio.

Series I: Correspondence

This series includes general correspondence from constituents, local and national political leaders, as well as personal cards and letters. Also included are various copies of letters that Curran wrote to local and national political leaders, constituents, and personal letters. Also included is a sampling of letters of recommendation written by Curran for various individuals.

Series II: Speeches

This series includes speeches from various events throughout Curran's career. Also included is supporting research materials.

Series III: Campaign / Election Information

This series includes correspondence, news clippings, election results, political questionnaires, and campaign finance information related to Curran's campaigns for Montgomery County Commissioner in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006. Information for other local elections in which Curran was interested or involved are also included.

Series IV: Photographs

This series includes photographs of Curran at various events and portraits. Also included are pictures from various news clippings and digital photographs printed on computer paper.

Series V: Certificates / Awards / Events

This series includes certificates and information about awards that Curran received throughout his career. Information about special events in which Curran participated are also included. His certificate of appointment to the office of State Senator from District 6 of Ohio from 1979-1983 is included.

Series VI: Advertisements / Sponsorships

This series contains original or copies of advertisements that Curran placed in various local publications. Also included is information about events or organizations which Curran sponsored.

Series VII: Research

This series contains copies of articles or materials which Curran collected for occupational or personal research. Topics such as abortion and sexuality are included, as well as an historical sketch of Montgomery County, OH.

Series VIII: Personal

This series contains copies of certificates of birth of Curran's wife, Mara, and their son, Charles James. A copy of Curran's marriage certificate is also included. Writings from his wife and daughter, Rachelle are included, along with his business card, a caricature, and Curran's pancake recipe. A separate folder includes news clippings either written by or about Curran.

Series I		Correspondence	
Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Correspondence – Letter from Senator Donald “Buz” Lukens	1985
1	2	Correspondence – Invitation to President Clinton	1994
1	3	Correspondence	1995
1	4	Correspondence related to switch to Republican party	1996
1	5	Correspondence	1996
1	6	Correspondence	1997
1	7	Correspondence	1998
1	8	Correspondence	1999
1	9	Correspondence	2000
1	10	Correspondence	2001
1	11	Correspondence	2002
1	12	Correspondence	2003
1	13	Correspondence	2004
1	14	Correspondence	2005
1	15	Correspondence	2006 pt.1
1	16	Correspondence	2006 pt.2
1	17	Correspondence	n.d.
2	1	Correspondence (Letters of Recommendation)	1986-2006
Series II:		Speeches	
Box	File	Item	Date
2	2	Speeches	1983
2	3	Speeches	1984
2	4	Speeches	1985
2	5	Speeches	1986
2	6	Speeches	1987
2	7	Speeches	1988
2	8	Speeches	1989
2	9	Speeches	1990
3	1	Speeches	1991
3	2	Speeches	1993
3	3	Speeches	1994
3	4	Speeches	1995
3	5	Speeches	1996
3	6	Speeches	1998
3	7	Speeches	1999
3	8	Speeches	2000
3	9	Speeches	2001
3	10	Speeches	2002
4	1	Speeches	2003
4	2	Speeches	2004
4	3	Speeches	2005
4	4	Speeches	2006

Series II Speeches**(con't):**

4 5 Speeches n.d.

Series III: Campaign / Election Information

Box	File	Item	Date
5	1	Campaign correspondence	1990
5	2	Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Campaign	1992
5	3	Campaign for Montgomery County Commissioner	1994
5	4	Campaign / Election info	1995
5	5	Campaign / Election info	1996
5	6	Campaign / Election info	1997
5	7	Campaign for Montgomery County Commissioner	1998 pt.1
5	8	Campaign for Montgomery County Commissioner	1998 pt.2
5	9	Campaign for Montgomery County Commissioner	2002
5	10	Voter history (Dayton 8-B)	2003
5	11	Campaign / Election info	2004
6	1	Campaign for Montgomery County Commissioner	2006
6	2	Campaign Banner	n.d.

Series IV: Photographs

Box	File	Item	Date
6	3	Photographs --Portraits	1993, 1996, 2001
6	4	Photographs – Dayton International Airport	1994
6	5	Photographs	1995
6	6	Photographs	1996
6	7	Photographs	1997
6	8	Photographs	1998
6	9	Photographs	2000
6	10	Photographs	2001
6	11	Photographs	2002
6	12	Photographs	2003
6	13	Photographs	2004
6	14	Photographs	2005
6	15	Photographs	2006
6	16	Photographs	n.d.

Series V: Certificates / Awards / Events

Box	File	Item	Date
7	1	Cerificates / Awards / Events	1979-2006

Series VI: Advertisements / Sponsorships

Box	File	Item	Date
7	2	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1989
7	3	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1990
7	4	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1991
7	5	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1992
7	6	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1993
7	7	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1994
7	8	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1995

**Series VI Advertisements / Sponsorships
(con'd):**

7	9	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1996
7	10	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1997
7	11	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1998
7	12	Advertisements / Sponsorships	1999
7	13	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2000
7	14	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2001
7	15	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2002
7	16	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2003
7	17	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2004
7	18	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2005
8	1	Advertisements / Sponsorships	2006
8	2	Advertisements / Sponsorships	n.d.

Series Research

VII:

Box	File	Item	Date
8	3	Research	1980-2006

Series Personal

VIII:

Box	File	Item	Date
8	3	Personal	1941-2005
8	4	News clippings	1996-2003