

Citizens Party (U.S.) Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2018

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2008085427>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018026>

Prepared by Colleen Benoit Kim

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2018

Collection Summary

Title: Citizen Party (U.S.) Records

Span Dates: 1976-1993

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1979-1981)

ID No.: MSS85427

Creator: Citizens Party (U.S.)

Extent: 2,800 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2008085427>

Summary: Political party composed of environmentalist and liberal groups. Correspondence, meeting notes, local chapter records, financial records, membership directories, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and printed matter pertaining to the organization of the Citizens Party, the formation of its platform, and its early campaign efforts.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Commoner, Barry, 1917-2012.

Harris, LaDonna.

Leahy, Dan (Daniel B.)

Organizations

Citizens Party (U.S.)

Subjects

Environmentalism--United States.

Liberalism--United States.

Political parties--United States.

Presidents--United States--Election--1980.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1945-1989.

Provenance

The records of the Citizens Party (U.S.) were given to the Library of Congress by Dan Lieberman in 2008. Additional records were given by Dan Leahy in 2018.

Processing History

The records of the Citizens Party (U.S.) were processed and cataloged in 2008. Additional material was processed and the collection description was expanded into a finding aid in 2018.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [Barry Commoner](#) .

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Citizens Party (U.S.) is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Citizens Party (U.S.) are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Citizens Party (U.S.) Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

Date	Event
1979	Established in Washington D.C. as a progressive, environmentalist, and liberal political party Registered with the Federal Elections Commission
1980	Held first national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, where delegates nominated Barry Commoner for President and LaDonna Harris for Vice President
1981	Terry Bouricius is first party candidate to win an election when elected to the Board of Aldermen in Burlington, Vt.
1984	Held second national convention in St. Paul, Minn., where delegates nominated Sonia Johnson for president and Richard Walton for vice president
1987	Disbanded after low votes cast for party nominees in 1986 elections

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Citizens Party span the years 1976 to 1993, with the bulk of the material ranging in date between 1979 and 1981. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or material type, with a significant portion concentrated in a grouping representing papers maintained by Dan Leahy, executive director, national secretary, and executive committee member of the party from 1979 to 1981.

The collection primarily chronicles the Citizens Party's organization at the national and local level, the formation of its platform, and its campaign efforts, especially during the 1980 presidential election. Very little material related to the party's activities beyond 1983 and ultimate disbandment in 1987 is represented in these records. Material types include correspondence, Executive Committee and Steering Committee meeting notes, campaign strategy files, local chapter procedures and records, financial records, membership directories, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Campaign material, 1980-1981, 1993
BOX 1	Conventions, 1980-1982
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1980-1983, 1992 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Dan Leahy papers
BOX 1	April convention, 1980 (3 folders)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	Atlanta, Ga. chapter, 1980-1981 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Ballot access, 1979-1980
BOX 2	Chronological file, 1979-1980 (3 folders)
BOX 3	(5 folders)
BOX 3	Commoner, Barry and LaDonna Harris campaign, 1980
BOX 4	Context papers, 1976-1979 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Executive Committee, 1980-1981 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Financial documents, 1979-1980 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Fundraising, 1979-1980
BOX 5	Inter-party relations, 1979
BOX 5	Local chapter recognition, 1980
BOX 5	Local organization, 1979-1980
BOX 5	National office, Washington, D.C., 1979-1980
BOX 5	Newsletters and clippings, 1979-1980
BOX 6	Nominations, 1980
BOX 6	Platform, 1979-1980
BOX 6	Political Action Committee, 1980
BOX 6	Position papers, 1979
BOX 6	Seattle, Wa. chapter, 1980
BOX 6	State caucus procedures, 1980 (3 folders)
BOX 7	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Steering Committee, 1979-1980 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Strategies, 1979-1980
BOX 7	Western Regional Coordinating Committee, 1980
BOX 7	Executive Committee and officers, undated
BOX 7	Financial records, 1980-1983
BOX 7	Meetings, 1980-1981

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Membership, 1980-1981 (1 folder)
BOX 8	(1 folder)
BOX 8	Notes, 1980-1981
BOX 8	Organization
BOX 8	Local chapters, 1979-1981
BOX 8	National, 1981
BOX 8	Publicity
BOX 8	Brochures and circulars, 1979-1982
BOX 8	Newspaper clippings, 1979-1983 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Newsletters, 1980-1982
BOX 8	Speeches and statements, 1980-1981