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ELIZABETH (BETSY) DUNN PAPERS
circa 1972-2010

Accession Number: 120-008

Repository: University of Massachusetts Boston. University Archives and Special Collections

Creator: Elizabeth (Betsy) Dunn

Title: Elizabeth (Betsy) Dunn papers

Date [inclusive]: circa 1972-2010

Extent: 41 linear feet (forty-five boxes)

Language: English

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PROVENANCE

The papers of Elizabeth St. John Myer "Betsy" Dunn were donated to University Archives and Special Collections in the Joseph P. Healey Library at the University of Massachusetts Boston on January 24, 2020, by Elizabeth Keats Dunn.

PROCESSING NOTES

This collection has not been processed. The dates are approximate until processed.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1925, Elizabeth St. John Myer "Betsy" Dunn attended the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Winsor School, a private girl's school in Boston (1). In 1946, she received a BA in mathematics from Vassar College and in 1981, an MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (1). Dunn worked at Harvard in various capacities at the Center for International Affairs, the Office of the President, the Medical School, the Radcliffe Institute, and the School of Education (1). Dunn became a political activist in the 1970s for women's rights and provided supporting analysis for the EEOC class action lawsuit filed on behalf of women against Tufts University (1). Dunn was actively involved in the Democratic

Party in Cambridge, the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, and served as Massachusetts Legislative Coordinator for the National Organization for Women (1). She is also known for coining the term “gender gap” to describe voting patterns between men and women and worked to ensure gender equality for insurance contracts during a thirty-five-year period (1). In 1973, Dunn established and organized a women’s ice hockey team called the Ms. Sticks and Mother Puckers that played against other college-aged women from local universities (1).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. “Elizabeth St. John Myer ‘Betsy’ Dunn.” Legacy.com. Boston Globe Obituaries. Web. 10 Jul. 2020. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=elizabeth-st-john-myer-dunn-betsy&pid=191891401&fhid=14162>

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These papers document the activities of Elizabeth St. John Myer “Betsy” Dunn. Materials include correspondence, agenda, minutes, roll calls, position papers, grant application, notes, speech, legislation, publicity, fact sheets, campaign pins, publications, clippings, flyers, brochures, and a map. Topics include abortion, reproductive rights, Democratic party, insurance, gender gap, legislative issues, NOW, League of Women Voters, and litigation.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection has not been arranged.

CONTAINER LIST

Flat Box: 1

General political issue pins, circa 1980-2010

Flat Box: 2

Political campaign pins, 1980-2010

Flat Box: 3

Political campaign pins, 1980-2010

Flat Box: 4

ERA/NOW, Pro-choice pins, political pins, 1980-2000

Box: 1

Coalition for Choice, 1990-1999

1. [Articles], clippings, 1992
2. Coalition for Choice [flyers, brochures, clippings, correspondence, 1 of 2], 1992
3. Coalition for Choice [flyers, brochures, clippings, correspondence, 2 of 2], 1992

4. Coalition for Choice [flyers, brochures, clippings, correspondence, agendas, minutes, 1 of 2], 1991
5. Coalition for Choice [flyers, brochures, clippings, correspondence, agendas, minutes, 2 of 2], 1991
6. Coalition for Choice, #1 [flyers, brochures, clippings, correspondence, agendas, minutes], 1991
7. Coalition for Choice steering committee [agendas, minutes, correspondence, flyers], 1990
8. Pro-choice constitutional amendment fact sheets, 1990
9. [Freedom of Choice Act publicity], 1991
10. Pro-choice amendment roll call [correspondence, clippings], 1990
11. Reproductive rights legislation [correspondence, clippings], 1990
12. Con cons [laws, roll calls], 1990
13. Out-of-state pro-choice legislation [correspondence, clippings, legislation], 1986-1990

Box: 2

Abortion 1980-1990 - 1 of 2

14. Abortion [legislation, correspondence], 1983-1987
15. Abortion votes in Massachusetts Legislature, [legislation, correspondence], 1982-1983
16. Reproductive rights legislation 1989, [legislation, correspondence], 1986-1989
17. Federal reproductive rights legislation, [correspondence], 1989-1990
18. [Civil Rights Restoration Act correspondence, publicity], 1986
19. [Massachusetts pro-choice amendment legislation, correspondence], 1990
20. [Rally & Lobby Day publicity], 1990
21. PPLM Symposium/new birth control,[articles], 1987-1990
22. Signature campaign, [maps, sample ballot, publicity], 1989
23. Coalition for Choice Summer, [publicity, correspondence, 1 of 2], 1989-1990
24. Coalition for Choice Summer, [legislation, correspondence, 2 of 2], 1989
25. Coalition for Choice Rally press conference, [agenda, publicity, publication], 1989 July 3
26. Gubernatorial Meetings, [correspondence, clippings, publicity], 1989
27. Coalition for Choice steering committee, [agendas, minutes, correspondence, legislation], 1989
28. Coalition for Choice steering committee, [agendas, minutes, correspondence, legislation], 1988
29. Operation Rescue/literature, [clippings, memos, newsletters], 1988-1989
30. Abortion artis [literature, mailings], 1986-1989
31. Abortion, Catholic Church, [correspondence, clippings], 1984-1985
32. Reproductive rights volunteers, [correspondence, clippings], 1989
33. Coalition for Choice - language and process, [press releases, petitions], 1989
34. Coalition for Choice - full membership meeting, [agenda, memos, flyers, map], 1989 August 23

- 35. Coalition for Choice legal memo on amendment language, [correspondence], 1989
- 36. LDEF reproductive rights resource kits, [correspondence, publicity], 1989
- 37. LWV reproductive rights PPF, [correspondence, flyers, speech], 1989 September
- 38. LWV abortion article, [notes, article drafts], 1989
- 39. EMD meetings with local LWV, [article, clipping, memo, flyer, map], 1989-1990
- 40. Local LWV activities - reproductive rights, [minutes], 1989-1990
- 41. Petitions LWV 1989, [petitions], 1989

Box: 3

Abortion 2 of 2, 1972-1989

- 42. LWV reproductive rights [position papers], 1972-1989
- 43. LWV congressional letters reproductive rights [correspondence], 1989
- 44. Pro-choice Lobby Day [publicity, flyers], 1987 May 19
- 45. Coalition for Choice Ms. Foundation [grant application], 1988-1989
- 46. 1989 November 12 Mobilize for Women's Lives [flyers, publicity, correspondence], 1989
- 47. April 9 march reproductive rights [correspondence, newsletters, flyers], 1989
- 48. Reproductive rights legislation [correspondence, position papers], 1986

Box: 4

Reproductive Rights: Coalition for Choice, 1990-2000

- 49. [Publications], 1998-2000