

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Title: Harper College Referendum Collection

Dates: 1970-[ongoing], bulk dates 1984-2000

Extent: 1.5 linear feet, 1 oversized box

Abstract: The collection consists of materials from Harper College's voter referendum campaigns for the years 1970, 1978, 1985, 1999, and 2000. Additional accruals may occur on an irregular basis.

Repository: Harper College Archives, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067, Phone 847.925.6184
<http://dept.harpercollege.edu/library/archives/index.html>

Collection Number: SC005 REF

Processing note: processed by Julia Olsen Spataro, 2017

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Access restrictions: Collection is open for researchers.

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, SC005 REF Harper College Referendum Collection, 1970-, Harper College Archives, box number X, folder number XX.

IN-DEPTH COLLECTION INFORMATION

Historical Note: The collection contains subject files from Harper College's voter referendum campaigns for the years 1970, 1978, 1985, 1999, and 2000, as Harper sought tax rate hikes to fund its continued growth.

March 21, 1970 Referendum

The 1970 tax rate referendum was held to support the rapid growth of the student population at Harper College, which surpassed the tax base growth rate. This resulted in a decrease in Harper's tax base per student. The proposed tax rate increase was to go to Harper's Educational and Building Funds in support of general operating costs, building and maintenance. The referendum failed to pass.

September 19, 1978 Referendum

The 1978 Referendum proposed a 7.5 cent increase in the Educational fund to support operating expenses. The referendum was not passed by voters.

February 26, 1985 Referendum

Harper College was at a "financial crossroads" due to operating costs growing faster than revenue. Facing a projected deficit of 2.1 million for the next year, Harper College proposed a tax rate increase from 15 cents to 25 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation. The referendum was successful.

February 23, 1999 Referendum

Harper College Referendum Collection

To support renovations of existing buildings and construction of new buildings to house a science and technology center and a culinary arts and hospitality center, Harper College asked taxpayers to support a \$124.8 million capital referendum. The referendum failed to gain the necessary support of voters.

2000 Referendum

The 2000 Referendum was for \$88.8 million to build three buildings: a science center, a health careers center, and an emerging technology center. It was essentially a scaled-back version of the previous year's referendum. The 2000 referendum was successfully passed, and the resulting funds were used to build the Avanté complex.

Scope and content:

The collection consists of marketing and informational materials for the various referendum campaigns, as well as campaign records including memos and correspondence. Wherever possible, the original order and topic designations were maintained.

System of Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into series for each referendum campaign, organized by election year.

Series 1, 1970 Referendum, Box 1, folder 1

Facts Charts Graphs: Questions and Answers Concerning the March 21 1970 Tax Rate Referendum;
Handout: Questions and answers – Harper Referendum.

Series 2, 1978 Referendum, Box 1, folder 2

Letters to Harper employees, administrators, and students regarding the referendum and voting, marketing materials, supporting charts.

Series 3, 1985 Referendum, Box 1, folders 2-8, Box 2, Box 3, folders 1-5, Box 4 [oversized]

Outreach committee records and reports, marketing materials including posters (oversized), newsletters, and form letters, Harper College 1984-85 Profile, committee task force final reports including data books, newspaper clippings, and post-referendum analysis.

Series 4, 1999 Referendum, Box 3, folders 6-14

Steering committee and task force records, newspaper clippings, and marketing materials.

Series 5, 2000 Referendum, Box 3, folders 15-22

2000 budget resolution, English and Spanish language flyers and brochures, correspondence, debate materials, draft statements, press releases, and newspaper clippings.

Acquisition Information: Unknown

Provenance: Unknown

CONTAINER LISTING

Box 1, folder 1: 1970 Referendum

Box 1, folder 2: 1978 Referendum

Box 1, folder 3: 1985 Referendum – Financial Review, 1984

Box 1, folder 4: 1985 Referendum – Outreach Campaign Steering Committee

Box 1, folder 5: 1985 Referendum – Voter mobilization

Box 1, folder 6: 1985 Referendum – Brochures, flyers, charts

Box 1, folder 7: 1985 Referendum – Form letters

Box 1, folder 8: 1985 Referendum – Referendum Express newsletters

Box 1, folder 9: 1985 Referendum – Harper College 1984-1985 Profile

Box 2, folder 1: 1985 Referendum—Education Task Force Final Report

Box 2, folder 2: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 1: Data Book, part 1

Box 2, folder 3: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 1: Data Book, part 2

Box 2, folder 4: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 2: Issues Booklet

Box 2, folder 5: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 3: Speakers

Box 2, folder 6: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 4: Internal materials

Box 2, folder 7: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 5: External materials

Box 2, folder 8: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 6: Letters

Box 2, folder 9: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, Appendix 7: Press

Box 2, folder 10: 1985 Referendum – Education Task Force Final Report, c.2

Box 2, folder 11: 1985 Referendum – Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 1: Data Book, part 1

Box 2, folder 12: 1985 Referendum – Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 1: Data Book, part 2

Box 2, folder 13: 1985 Referendum – Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 2: Issues Booklet

Box 2, folder 14: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 3: Speakers

Box 2, folder 15: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 4: Internal materials

Box 3, folder 1: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 5: External materials

Box 3, folder 2: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 6: Letters

Box 3, folder 3: 1985 Referendum -- Education Task Force Final Report, c.2, Appendix 7: Press

Box 3, folder 4: 1985 Referendum – Newspaper Clippings, 1984-1985

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Box 3, folder 5: 1985 Referendum – Post-Referendum Analysis

Box 3, folder 6: 1999 Referendum – Campaign Planning Workshop, Oct. 1997

Box 3, folder 7: 1999 Referendum – Proposed Plan, Nov. 1997

Box 3, folder 8: 1999 Referendum – Internal Information Packet, Aug. 1998

Box 3, folder 9: 1999 Referendum – Focus Groups, Aug. 1998

Box 3, folder 10: 1999 Referendum – Campaign Telephone Script, Oct. 1998

Box 3, folder 11: 1999 Referendum – Correspondence, 1998-99

Box 3, folder 12: 1999 Referendum – Newspaper Clippings, 1998

Box 3, folder 13: 1999 Referendum – Northwest Tax Watch PAC Flyer, 1999

Box 3, folder 14: 1999 Referendum – Marketing Materials, 1998-99

Box 3, folder 15: 2000 Referendum – Adoption of Budget Resolution, Aug. 2000

Box 3, folder 16: 2000 Referendum – Marketing Materials

Box 3, folder 17: 2000 Referendum – Correspondence, 1999-2002

Box 3, folder 18: 2000 Referendum – Press Releases, 2000

Box 3, folder 19: 2000 Referendum – Election Results Draft Statements

Box 3, folder 20: 2000 Referendum – League of Women Voters Debate

Box 3, folder 21: 2000 Referendum – Referendum Results [Unofficial]

Box 3, folder 22: 2000 Referendum – Newspaper Clippings, 1999-2001

Box 4 [oversized]: 1985 Referendum – Referendum Campaign Posters