



**Guide to the Rhode Island
Constitutional Convention of 1973**

1973 Sep 4 - 1973 Oct 4

Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections
1 Cunningham Square
Providence, RI 02918-0001

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Collection Overview

Creator(s):	General Assembly of Rhode Island
Title:	Rhode Island Constitutional Convention of 1973
Dates:	1973 Sep 4 - 1973 Oct 4
Quantity:	3 box(es) (1.25 linear feet)
Abstract:	The Rhode Island Constitutional Convention of 1973 was convened to amend the state's constitution. The collection contains convention rules and other administrative documents, session journals, publicity, and research on the issues considered.
Identification:	rppc_riconcov1973
Language:	The records are in English.
Repository:	Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections 1 Cunningham Square Providence, RI 02918-0001

Historical Information

In January of 1973 an act was passed by the General Assembly of Rhode Island to convene a Constitutional Convention to amend the state's constitution. It was the eleventh convention to gather in the state and only the fifth to be held in a limited form. A limited convention is called to restrict the proceedings to specific prearranged constitutional questions. These included the revision of election laws, the repeal of the prohibition of lotteries, the review of legislator compensation, and the reform of Grand Jury functions in the Judicial System.

The convention opened on September 4, 1973 and the delegates began working on producing an item by item referendum to be voted upon during the Nov. 6th general election of that year. During the month the convention was in session a total of ninety-one proposals were submitted as amendments to the constitution. Of those proposals only seven were approved to be on the election ballot. On November 6, 1973 voters passed five of those seven amendments.

The most important amendments that passed dealt with the reforming of election laws, the procedures for amending the state's basic law, and the procedures for calling future open conventions at regular intervals. The two proposals that were rejected in close voter races, were reforms increasing legislative pay to \$2,000 per year and giving four year terms to the state's general officers

The 1973 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention can be called one the more productive gatherings in Rhode Island's Constitutional history producing some of the greatest changes in the state's basic law.

Scope and Content Note

In 1973 the Rhode Island electorate voted to call a convention to discuss amending specific sections of the State Constitution. Several amendments were adopted by voters during the general election of November 6, 1973. Included here are convention rules and other administrative documents, session journals, publicity, and research on the issues considered.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series

Series List

Sessions, 1973

Committes, 1973

Subject Files, 1973

Index Terms

Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

Conley, Patrick T
Constitutional conventions -- Rhode Island
Constitutions -- Rhode Island
Rhode Island. Constitutional Convention (1973)
Rhode Island -- Politics and government -- 1951-

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Prior to its donation to Providence College, the collection was acquired and maintained by Patrick T. Conley while he was acting as the Secretary of the Convention.

Preferred Citation

Rhode Island Constitutional Convention of 1973, Providence College Library, Special and Archival Collections

Acquisitions Information

The collection was donated in 1974 by Patrick T. Conley.

Processing Information

The collection was originally processed in 1974 and re-processed in 2009.

Restrictions

Open for research.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Photocopying and scanning of materials is a fee based service available in the repository and is allowed at the discretion of the Librarian of Special and Archival Collections when in compliance to the College's policy on copyright and publication.

Related Material

Prior to the 1973 convention, a similar convention was held in 1964 in an attempt to rewrite the Rhode Island Constitution, and in 1986, a third convention was held again in an attempt to amend the Rhode Island Constitution. Providence College holds the records of both of these conventions.

For the availability of bound copies of the official Journal of the proceedings, see: Rhode Island, Constitutional Convention (1973). *The proceedings of the Rhode Island constitutional convention of 1973 / compiled and edited by Patrick T. Conley, secretary*. Providence : Oxford, 1973.

There are no known separated materials.

Inventory

Series: Sessions

Dates: 1973

Extent: (16 folders)

Material types:

journals (periodicals)
manuscripts for publication

Scope and Content Note

This series contains the typed manuscripts and the published journals detailing each session of the convention. The published journal for the September 25th session (vol. 1, no. 6) is missing, however, the typed manuscript for that session is available.

Arrangement

The series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1 Folder 1	Act for calling a Constitutional Convention	1973 Jan
Box 1 Folder 2	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.1	1973 Sep 4
Box 1 Folder 3	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1 no.2	1973 Sep 6
Box 1 Folder 4	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 12
Box 1 Folder 5	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1 no.3	1973 Sep 12
Box 1 Folder 6	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 18
Box 1 Folder 7	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.4	1973 Sep 18
Box 1 Folder 8	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 20
Box 1 Folder 9	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.5	1973 Sep 20
Box 1 Folder 10	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention (vol.1, no.6)	1973 Sep 25
Box 1 Folder 11	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 27
Box 1 Folder 12	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.7	1973 Sep 27
Box 1 Folder 13	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Oct 2
Box 1 Folder 14	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.8	1973 Oct 2
Box 1 Folder 15	Manuscript of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Oct 4
Box 1 Folder 16	Journal of the 1973 Constitutional Convention, vol.1, no.9	1973 Oct 4

Series: Committees

Dates: 1973

Extent: (22 folders)

Material types:

copies (document genres)
laws (documents)
minutes
notes
official reports

Scope and Content Note

This series contains the typed minute notes of committee meetings, hand written minute notes of meetings, research materials collected, and reports completed by individual committees.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1 Folder 17	Committee on Administration - Meeting Minutes	1973 Sep 6 - 1973 Sep 11
Box 1 Folder 18	Committee of Administration - Expenditures of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973
Box 1 Folder 19	Committee of Administration - Journal Distribution and Expenditures	1973
Box 1 Folder 20	Committee of Elections - Meeting Minutes and Notes	1973 Sep 10 - 1973 Oct 1
Box 2 Folder 21	Committee of Elections - Election Laws and Reports	1973
Box 2 Folder 22	Committee on Grand Jury - Notes	1973 Sep
Box 2 Folder 23	Committee on Grand Jury - System Information and Reports	1973
Box 2 Folder 24	Committee on Legislative Compensation - Minutes and Notes	1973 Sep 10
Box 2 Folder 25	Committee on Legislative Compensation - Research, Reports and Proposals	1967 -1973
Box 2 Folder 26	Committee on Lotteries - Minutes and Notes	1973 Sep
Box 2 Folder 27	Committee on Lotteries- Connecticut	1971
Box 2 Folder 28	Committee on Lotteries - Maryland	1972 - 1973
Box 2 Folder 29	Committee on Lotteries - Massachusetts	1971
Box 2 Folder 30	Committee on Lotteries - Michigan	1972
Box 2 Folder 31	Committee on Lotteries - New Hampshire	1963
Box 2 Folder 32	Committee on Lotteries - New Jersey	1968 - 1973
Box 2 Folder 33	Committee on Lotteries - New York	1967 - 1972
Box 2 Folder 34	Committee on Lotteries - Ohio	1972 - 1973
Box 2 Folder 35	Committee on Lotteries - Pennsylvania	1971
Box 2 Folder 36	Committee on Lotteries - Reports and Notes	1973
Box 2 Folder 37	Committee of Public Information	1973 Sep
Box 2 Folder 38	Committee on Resolutions - Minutes and Notes	1973 Sep - 1973 Oct

Series: Subject Files

Dates: 1973

Extent: (9 folders)

Material types:

- briefs (legal documents)
- clippings (information artifacts)
- correspondence
- official reports
- press releases
- proposals
- rosters

Scope and Content Note

This series contains the final proposals and resolutions of the 1973 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention, newspaper clippings, and lists of delegates and officers who attended the convention. The collection also contains correspondence and public statements by Patrick T. Conley concerning the convention.

Arrangement

This series has no special arrangement.

Box 2 Folder 39	Proposals of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 12 - 1974 Mar 26
Box 2 Folder 40	Resolutions of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 12 - 1973 Oct 2
Box 3 Folder 41	Preliminaries to the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Jan - 1973 Aug 23
Box 3 Folder 42	Malinou Brief Regarding Open Sessions of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 Sep 6
Box 3 Folder 43	Correspondence of Patrick T. Conley	1973
Box 3 Folder 44	Public Statements Concerning the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973
Box 3 Folder 45	Newspaper Clippings Regarding the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973 May 16 - 1973 Nov 14
Box 3 Folder 46	Rules of the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1965 - 1973
Box 3 Folder 47	List of Delegates, Officers and Roll During the 1973 Constitutional Convention	1973