Kathleen Straus Papers
3 linear feet (3 SB)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Accession Number: UP001848

Creator: Kathleen Straus

Acquisition: This collection was donated to the Reuther Library by Kathleen Straus on September 29, 2004.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “Kathleen Straus Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”


Cassette tapes transferred to the Reuther’s Audiovisual Department

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.
Abstract
Kathleen Straus is an activist for Michigan education and civil rights. She has been involved in the League of Women Voters, Keep Improving Detroit Schools (KIDS), PRO-Detroit, and the Michigan Association of School Boards. Additionally, Straus co-founded the Michigan Tax Information Council and she was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in 2000 for her work in civil rights and education.

Because of Straus’s participation in civil rights and education, this collection contains information on the movement for cross-border busing between Detroit and its surrounding cities, which was proposed by the City of Detroit. Governor Milliken blocked the desegregation plan and the case was then brought to the Supreme Court by the NAACP on behalf of the students affected by the distinct segregation of metropolitan Detroit schools. In 1974, however, the Supreme Court ruled against desegregation busing in a 5-4 vote.

Additionally, this collection consists of information about Michigan’s tax proposals in the 1970s and 1980s and their potential effect on schools, as well as pamphlets, correspondence, and memos about the proposals. This collection also holds some information about the finances of Detroit Public Schools, land use, and community-based organizations involved in education activism. Finally, this collection contains meeting minutes, correspondence, newsletters, and memos related to the Michigan Women’s Studies Association.

Important Subjects:
Desegregation in Education
Detroit (Mich.) Board of Education
Detroit Public Schools
Michigan State Board of Education
Tax reduction and reform proposals

Important Names:
Cavanagh, Jerome P.
Citizens for Tax Justice
Michigan Citizens to Protect the Constitution
Michigan Women’s Studies Association
Michigan Tax Information Council
Milliken, William G., 1922-
PRO-Detroit
Straus, Kathleen

Arrangement
Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.
Box 1

1. Memos, reports, newsletters about proposed property tax amendments, 1972-1973
2. Proposed tax amendments A, B, and C, 1980
3. Tax proposal D materials, 1980
4. Newspaper clippings related to proposal D, 1980
5. League of Women Voters of Michigan and Citizens Save Our State, materials against Proposal D, 1980
12. Memos and meeting materials about HJR G (H-3), 1981
15. Tisch-Headlee Coalition, Tisch-3 Amendment, 1981
17. Anti-Tisch Coalition, 1981
18. Newspaper clippings related to anti-Tisch Coalition, 1981
20. Citizens Save Our State, 1984
22. Land use, correspondence and reports, 1974
23. Newspaper clippings about land use, 1974
24. Pro-Detroit membership lists, 1975
25. Desegregation implementation, circa 1976

Box 2

1. Pro-Detroit and Guest Community Council, 1975
3. Pro-Detroit, desegregation memos, 1967-1977
5. The Constant Search, The Story of Federal Aid to Detroit Schools, by Betty Deramus, 1968
11. Pamphlets and reports on school finance, 1977-1986
12. Reports on school funding, 1965
15. The Citizens to Protect the Constitution, materials on Resolution A, 1985
17. Speaker's Focus on Education Conference, 1984
21. Mayor's Task Force on Human Services, 1974
23. ACLU board book, 1992
28. Pamphlet about "Labor and Education" sculpture by Oscar Graces, undated
29. Model Neighborhood, 1970

Box 3

2. Reports on Detroit Public Schools, 1972-1974
3. A-OK Campaign, Detroit Public Schools, 1973
5. Findings and recommendations of Citizens Advisory Committee of School Needs, 1958
24. Critique of the Detroit Public Schools Response to the Monitoring Commission, 1979
25. A critique of the desegregation plan filed by the Detroit Board of Education, 1975
27. Monitoring Commission reports, 1975
29. Proposal C information, 1976
30. Newspaper clippings about Proposal C, 1976
31. Desegregation reports, 1976
32. Metropolitan Planning Project, Metro Ways to Understanding 1974
33. Detroit Board of Education, Desegregation Plan, 1975
34. Findings and recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Equal Education Opportunities, 1962
35. The U.S. District Court Opinion on Remedy to Segregate Wilmington Public Schools, 1976
36. Detroit's Kids... Love 'em, bumper stickers, undated