

**Kathleen Straus Papers**  
3 linear feet (3 SB)  
1965-1993, bulk 1975-1987

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

Finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on January 28, 2015.

**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”

**Related Material:** New Detroit, Inc. Records, Detroit Education Association Records, Michigan Federation of Teachers Records, Detroit Board of Education Proceedings

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
6. Implementation of Proposal A, 1980
7. Proposal A documents, 1980-1981
8. Proposal A, 1981
9. Newspaper clippings about Proposal 8, 1981
10. Governor Milliken's Tax Proposal, 1981
11. Citizens for Tax Justice, 1981
12. Memos and meeting materials about HJR G (H-3), 1981
13. Detroit Free Press, article about property taxes, 1981
14. New Detroit Joint Sub Committee on State Property Tax Reforms, 1981
15. Tisch-Headlee Coalition, Tisch-3 Amendment, 1981
16. Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators, Get the Facts, 1980
17. Anti-Tisch Coalition, 1981
18. Newspaper clippings related to anti-Tisch Coalition, 1981
19. Michigan Association of School Administrators, Proposal C, circa 1981
20. Citizens Save Our State, 1984
21. Citizens Save Our State, 1980-1981
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
26. New Detroit, Inc., memos about tax proposals, 1980

**Box 2**

1. Pro-Detroit and Guest Community Council, 1975
2. The Gratiot Advertiser and Virginia Park News, 1975-1976
3. Pro-Detroit, desegregation memos, 1967-1977
4. Pro-Detroit, desegregation materials, 1970-1980
5. The Constant Search, The Story of Federal Aid to Detroit Schools, by Betty Deramus, 1968
6. Michigan Tax Information Council. 1985
7. New Detroit, Inc., initial report on the New Detroit, Inc. school finance project, 1978-1980
8. New Detroit, Inc., School Finance Committee, 1980
9. League of Women Voters of Michigan, education fund, 1980
10. School finance in Michigan reports, 1977-1980
11. Pamphlets and reports on school finance, 1977-1986
12. Reports on school funding, 1965
13. Michigan Association of School Boards, legislative handbook, 1985-1986

14. Michigan Citizens to Protect the Constitution, Citizen Lobbying Manual, 1984
15. The Citizens to Protect the Constitution, materials on Resolution A, 1985
16. Michigan Association of School Boards, education issues, 1982
17. Speaker's Focus on Education Conference, 1984
18. Michigan Department of Treasury, Analysis of the Michigan Single Business Tax, 1985
19. Anatomy of a Fiscal Crisis: the Michigan Case, Harvey E. Brazer, 1981
20. Property Taxes in Michigan: Rates, Revenue, and Relief, 1985
21. Mayor's Task Force on Human Services, 1974
22. Michigan Tax Information Council. 1995-1997
23. ACLU board book, 1992
24. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1983-1993
25. Michigan Women's Studies Association, Inc., 1984-1993
26. Michigan Women's Studies Association, newsletters, 1983-1993
27. Michigan Women's Studies Association, reports and by-laws, 1992-1993
28. Pamphlet about "Labor and Education" sculpture by Oscar Graces, undated
29. Model Neighborhood, 1970

**Box 3**

1. Wayne and the Inner City: A Survey of Urban Concern, 1968
2. Reports on Detroit Public Schools, 1972-1974
3. A-OK Campaign, Detroit Public Schools, 1973
4. Citizens for Education, comparative figures for the millage vote, 1966
5. Findings and recommendations of Citizens Advisory Committee of School Needs, 1958
6. Education Task Force, 1973-1976
7. Decentralized Study Committee, 1970-1977
8. Women's Conference of Concerns, Revision of the Detroit Board of Education, 1981
9. Detroit Free Press, desecration article, 1981
10. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1982
11. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1983
12. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1984
13. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1985
14. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1986
15. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1987
16. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1988
17. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1989
18. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1990
19. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1991
20. Michigan Tax Information Council, 1992
21. Mayor's Development Team Report to Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, part one, 1967
22. Mayor's Development Team Report to Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, part two, 1967
23. Monitoring Commission report, 1980-1984
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

26. Monitoring Commission, staff report on regional structure of the Detroit Public Schools, 1979
27. Monitoring Commission reports, 1975
28. Theory into Practice, Desegregation: Plans and Possibilities, 1978
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