

## FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE IN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN COLLECTION

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The papers of the Fair Housing Ordinance in Birmingham, Michigan were deposited with the Labor History Archives in October, 1969, by John M. Dorsey, Jr., M.D., and Ann Wettlaufer.

The group, (known variously as the Campaign to Carry the Fair Housing Ordinance, Birmingham Residents for Fair Housing, or Birmingham Residents for Open Housing), was formed in early 1968, an outgrowth of the older Birmingham-Bloomfield Human Relations Council. Under the leadership of Dr. John Dorsey, Jr., a local pediatrician, the volunteer group faced the task of creating a favorable atmosphere for passage of Ordinance Number 692 in the April 1, 1968 election.

Ordinance Number 692, disallowing discrimination in sale or lease of real estate, was enacted by the Birmingham City Commission and became effective November 30, 1967. It was suspended when referendum petition signatures were filed with the City Clerk on January 22, 1968. The "YES" vote reinstated the ordinance 30 days after the election. A "NO" vote would have meant that the ordinance would remain suspended and could not be reenacted for the period of one year.

The Fair Housing Ordinance in Birmingham, Michigan Campaign Collection covers the period from February 1968 to April 1968.

Important subjects are:

- Local publicity and organization Birmingham-Bloomfield Human Relations Council League of Women Voters
- The National Conference of Christians' and Jew' 1969 Brotherhood Award for Good Housekeeping Magazine article on the campaign

Among the correspondents are:

- Governor George Romney (Michigan) Kent Mathewson (New Detroit Committee) Mary Augusta Rodgers (author)

### Description of Series

The Collection consists of personal correspondence, printed informational material, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box 1 The files are arranged by these general groupings: Support for Ordinance Number 692 Campaign Organization and Strategy Parallel Activites in other cities Opposition General

Folder List

Box 1 Support for Ordinance No. 692 - Publicity by Birmingham Residents for  
for Fair Housing

- Support from Churches
- Personal Letters of Support
- Support by Youth Groups
- Support by Walter C. Knowles of Referendum Petition
- League of Women Voters
- Birmingham - Bloomfield Council on Human Relations
- George Romney, Governor of Michigan
- Good Housekeeping Magazine
- Miscellaneous Support
- Donations and Financial Statement

Campaign Organization and Strategy -

- Organization and Strategy
- Door to Door
- Public Meetings
- By Precincts: Inventories, Evaluations
- Related Legal Materials: Challenger
- "Report of the Campaign to Carry the Fair Housing Ordinance in Birmingham, Michigan, Spring, 1968"

Parallel Activities in Other Cities

Opposition

General

- Newspaper Clippings
- Bumper Stickers, Buttons
- Miscellaneous