

**San Francisco Public Library**

**SAN FRANCISCO SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON CHARTER REFORM RECORDS**

**1978-1996 (BULK 1994-1995)**

Collection number: SFH 32



San Francisco History Center  
San Francisco Public Library

2009

## INTRODUCTION

### Provenance

The San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform Records were transferred to the San Francisco Public Library by then-Supervisor Barbara Kaufman in 1996.

### Access

The collection is open for research. A minimum of 2 working days' notice is required for use.

### Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

### Collection Number

**SFH 32**

### Size

2 cubic feet (in 2 boxes)

### Processed by

Tami J. Suzuki

### Date Completed

February 2009

### Languages Represented

Collection materials are in English.

### Preferred Citation

[*Identification of item*], San Francisco Select Committee on Charter Reform Records (SFH 32), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

**Related Materials and Collections**

Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Citizens Charter Revision Committee Records, 1968-1972 (SFH 33), the San Francisco Charter Commission Records, 1931-1980 (Bulk 1979-1980, SFH 25), the Jack Morrison Papers, 1962-1988 (Bulk 1966-1969, SFH 24), and the San Francisco History Center's subject and card files, and to check the library catalog for related materials.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

The charter is San Francisco's constitution. The first city charter was adopted in 1898, creating a "strong mayor" form of government. Reformers in the 1920s succeeded in voter adoption of a new charter in 1932, establishing a chief administrative officer to direct most of the city's departments. Over time, numerous incremental charter changes made governing arrangements more complex. Eventually, charter revision was attempted several times resulting in little change. Charter reform was undertaken in 1994 and 1995 by the Board of Supervisors, resulting in the 1996 charter.

Earlier, three charter committees failed to provide recommendations for revision. A fourth committee made recommendations that appeared on the November 1969 ballot (Proposition E) but was defeated, 37 to 63 per cent. A reconstituted committee then rearranged charter sections more logically with no substantive changes. This recodification passed in November 1971 (Proposition R).

In 1980, an elected charter commission proposed a new, simplified charter to replace the existing charter that had been amended over 500 times. The proposed charter would have given more authority to the mayor, reduced the chief administrative officer's term from 10 to 4 years, reduced the controller's term from life to 6 years, required that women be included on each commission and board, and gave greater status to the Human Rights Commission. Proposition A failed, 46 percent to 54 percent, on Nov. 4, 1980.

In 1993 voters again mandated (through Proposition N) a thorough review and revision of the Charter. In 1994, the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Charter Reform was established. The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), which supported Proposition N, was instrumental in the process. Several proposals were floated. Using the 1980 proposed charter as a starting point, Supervisor Barbara Kaufman and Mayor Frank Jordan's proposals were merged into one document. However, the Board of Supervisors declined to place a charter reform measure on the fall, 1994 ballot.

A new group was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1995, the Select Committee on Charter Reform, chaired by Supervisor Kaufman. Kaufman's legislative aide, T.J. Anthony, was significantly involved in the activities as was SPUR. Like the 1994 proposal, the 1995 document was based on the 1980 proposed charter. Reform highlights included shortening the 370-page document to 88 pages; modernizing the charter by eliminating sexist language, guaranteeing diversity and inclusion in city government, and protecting civil rights; merging the recorder and assessor functions; increasing government accountability; and giving some of the chief administrative officer's (CAO's) authority to the mayor while replacing the CAO with a city administrator with diminished authority. The measure, Proposition E, passed on Nov. 7, 1995, 58 percent to 42 percent, and the new charter became effective July 1, 1996.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents the work of Supervisor Barbara Kaufman and the 1994 and 1995 charter reform committees. The records cover work leading up to the new charter measure, Proposition E, which voters approved on November 7, 1995; and the implementation of the new charter which took effect on July 1, 1996. Materials include charter history, drafts and final text, reports, surveys, minutes and hearing summaries, public comments, a speakers manual, legal opinions, campaign materials, press releases, and newspaper clippings.

## ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The collection is organized into 5 series: 1) Citizens Advisory Committee Reports and Proposed Charter Text; 2) Select Committee Reports and Proposed Charter Text; 3) Ballot Measure Campaign; 4) Implementation; and 5) Reference Materials. Within series, materials are arranged chronologically.

## SERIES NOTES

**Series 1: CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSED CHARTER TEXT, 1993-1994**

.6 cubic feet.

Arranged chronologically.

Includes minutes and agendas, surveys, reports, and draft and final proposed charter text.

**Series 2: SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSED CHARTER TEXT, 1994-1995**

.8 cubic feet

Arranged chronologically.

Includes minutes and agendas, surveys, reports, and draft and final proposed charter text.

**Series 3: BALLOT MEASURE CAMPAIGN, 1995**

.3 cubic feet

Arranged chronologically.

Includes press releases, direct mail planning, and ballot arguments.

**Series 4: IMPLEMENTATION, 1996**  
5 folders

Arranged chronologically

Includes amendments.

**Series 5: REFERENCE MATERIALS, 1978-1995**  
8 folders

Arranged chronologically.

Includes articles on previous (San Francisco) charter revision efforts and other charter amendments.

CONTAINER LISTING

**SERIES 1. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSED  
CHARTER TEXT, 1993-1994**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 1	1	Resolutions Establishing Charter Reform Committee	1993-1994
	2	Kaufman's (5 <sup>th</sup> ) Draft Proposed Charter	July 20, 1993
	3	Chief Administrative Officer's Discussion Paper	Jan. 24, 1994
	4	Request to City Attorney from Supervisor Kaufman	Feb. 17, 1994
	5	Review of 1980 Proposal and 1994 Goals	March 1994
	6	Mayor's Statement	March 16, 1994
	7	Charter Amendments Since 1980	March 30, 1994
	8	Fourth Draft [Mayor's?]	April 11, 1994
	9	Organizational Chart of Hongisto's Proposal	[April 1994?]
	10	City Departments' and Community Groups' Comments	April-May, 1994
	11	Minutes	May 1994
	12	Memoranda	May 1994
	13	Summary of Draft Charter Provisions, Kaufman	May 4, 1994
	14	Comparison of Major Proposals	[May 1994?]
	15	Major Issues	May 27, 1994
	16	Agendas and Minutes	June 1994
	17	Draft Charter Text, Notes, and Revisions	[June 1994?]
	18	Charter Amendment Discussion	June 1994
	19	City Attorney's Input	June 1994
	20	Press Releases	June 1994
	21	Summary of Draft Proposal, Jordan/Kaufman	June 8, 1994
	22	Proposed Charter, Second Draft	June 12, 1994
	23	Introduction of Charter Overhaul to Board	June 13, 1994
	24	Major Issues	June 16, 1994
	25	Comparison of Current Proposed Charters	June 17, 1994
	26	Departmental Comments on Second Draft	June 1994
	27	Statements to Board by Kaufman and Committee	[June 21, 1994?]
	28	Memoranda including Ballot Simplification	June 1994
	29	Supervisors' Rules Committee Review of Third Draft	July 1, 1994
	30	Proposed Charter, Fourth Draft	July 5, 1994
	31	Proposed Charter, Fifth Draft	July 12, 1994
	32	Proposed Charter, Sixth Draft	July 12, 1994
	33	Comments on Sixth Draft	July-Aug., 1994
	34	Changes to Sixth Draft	July 14-22, 1994
	35	Draft Ballot Digest	July 20, 1994
	36	Press Releases	July 15-24, 1994
	37	Comparison of Key Features	July 22, 1994
	38	Draft Analysis of Proposed 1994 Charter	[1994]

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	39	Analysis of 1932 and Proposed Charters	[July 1994?]
Box 1	40	Kaufman's Statement to Board	[July 25, 1994?]
	41	Commendation by Kaufman	July 30, 1994
	42	Opinion Pieces	August 1994
	43	Press Coverage	March-Aug., 1994
	44	First Draft	Aug. 1, 1994
	45	Resolution Extending Committee's Term	Aug. 8, 1994
	46	T.J. Anthony's Notes	Sept.-Dec., 1994

**SERIES 2. SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROPOSED CHARTER TEXT, 1994-1995**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 1	47	Creation of Select Committee	[1994]
	48	First Meeting, Kaufman's Comments	Dec. 8, 1994
	49	Miscellaneous Issues	[1994-1995]
	50	Minutes and Proposed Charter, Second Draft	Jan. 19, 1995
	51	Legal Opinions on Text	Jan.-Aug., 1995
	52	Changes to Text	[1995?]
	53	Hearing Agenda and Kaufman's Comments	Feb. 9, 1995
	54	Organizing Memoranda	February 1995
	55	Calendars	Feb.-June, 1995
	56	Possible Amendments to Second Draft	Mar. -April, 1995
	57	Draft Comparison of 1994/95 (Second Draft) and 1980 Proposals with Current Charter	[March 1995?]
	58	Second Draft and Comparison with 1932 Charter	March 1995
	59	Minutes	April 26, 1995
	60	Neighborhood Meeting Comments by Kaufman	May 2, 1995
	61	Selected Comments on Second Draft	March-May 1995
	62	Public Comments on Second Draft	March-June 1995
	63	Board and Departmental Comments on Second Draft	April-June 1995
	64	Inventory of Issues, Sue Hestor	May 4, 1995
	65	Working Draft	May 18, 1995
	66	Special Meeting on Amendments Proposed by Public	May 31-June 1, 1995
	67	Special Meeting on Amendments	June 15, 1995
Box 2	1	Amendments 1-50	June 1995
	2	Amendments 51-97	June 1995
	3	Communications with SF Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)	June-July, 1995
	4	Outreach Activities Plan and Summary	June-July, 1995
	5	Third Draft and Comparison with 1932 Charter	June 19-23, 1995
	6	Comments on Third Draft	July 1995
	7	Third Draft, as Amended, and Comparison with	July 11-19, 1995



1932 Charter			
<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	8	Charter Summary Binder with Third Draft Proposal	July 1995
	9	Support Letters to the Board	June-July, 1995
	10	Press Clips	July 1995
	11	Kaufman's Remarks to Board on Proposed Charter	[July 24, 1995]
	12	Fourth Draft	July 24, 1995
	13	[Fourth Draft?], Appendix A	[July 24, 1995?]
	14	Comparison of 1932 and Fourth Draft Proposed Charters	Sept. 1, 1995
	15	T.J. Anthony's Notes	[1995?]

**SERIES 3. BALLOT MEASURE CAMPAIGN, 1995**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 2	16	"A Better Charter, A Better City" Handout	March 1995
	17	Ballot Simplification	July-Sept., 1995
	18	Ordinance Authorizing the Measure	Sept. 5, 1995
	19	Campaign Management	Aug.-Nov., 1995
	20	Press Releases and Fact Sheets	Aug.-Oct., 1995
	21	Press Clippings	Aug-Dec., 1995
	22	Editorial Boards and Broadcast Interviews	Aug. -Nov., 1995
	23	Poll	Aug.-Oct., 1995
	24	Direct Mail Campaign	Aug.-Oct., 1995
	25	Direct Mail Pieces	[October] 1995
	26	Talking Points	[October 1995]
	27	Miscellaneous Endorsements	October 1995
	28	Sample Ballot	[October] 1995
	29	Text of Appendices A, B, C, and D	[October 1995]

**SERIES 4. IMPLEMENTATION, 1996**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 2	30-33	Amendments	May-Nov., 1996
	34	Commendations for James Haas and T.J. Anthony	July 1, 1996

**SERIES 5. REFERENCE MATERIALS, 1978-1995**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 3	35	<i>SF Charter Revision: Constitutional Power and Political Limitations</i> (Student Paper)	1978
	36	Proposition A Articles and Text	Oct. 1980
	37	<i>Why Charter Reform Has Failed in San Francisco</i> (Student Paper)	1987
	38	Proposition L, Human Resources Department	July 1993
	39	Sample Ballot	[May] 1994

40	Voters Guide (League of Women Voters)	[Oct.] 1994
41	Text of Propositions E, F, G, and H	[Oct.] 1994
42	Charter Amendments, Los Angeles	April 1995