

Revising the Constitution

In 1969, the North Dakota legislature passed a resolution calling for a Constitutional Convention. North Dakota was not the first state to call for a new Constitutional Convention, but the people of the state thought a convention would present new opportunities, or frontiers. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the North Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1971 and 1972.

Archival Collections

10021 Arthur Guy Divet Papers

Correspondence with Alexander G. Burr and William L. Nuessle concerning the disposition of manuscripts, speeches relating to the Nonpartisan League (NPL), politics, the legal profession, U.S. Constitution and patriotism, poetry, newspaper clippings, and an autobiography.

10474 Frank A. Wenstrom Papers

Papers consist of Wenstrom's files relating to service as President of the 1971-1972 Constitutional Convention, Lieutenant Governor Wenstrom's 1964 visit to the World's Fair, his involvement with the ND Silver Haired Legislature (SHL), Silver Haired Assembly (SHA), and Silver Haired Education Association (SHEA), and personal and organizational material.

10488 Beatrice M. Peterson Papers

Papers consist of correspondence, memoranda, notes, reports, video cassettes, and publications documenting Peterson's participation in a variety of governmental, civil rights, political, and women's organizations, including the North Dakota Constitutional Convention.

10787 Arthur A. Link Congressional Records

Records reflect the day to day operations of Congressman Link who served as a representative from North Dakota to the 92nd Congress and consist of correspondence relating to House committees, politics, personal letters, invitations and greeting cards, and constituent concerns, statements by Link to the House and Senate committees, speeches, news releases, legislative and lobbyist materials, ephemera, maps, pamphlets, and radio tapes and scripts. 1961 Custer National Forest Little Missouri River National Park and Grassland Map.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- North Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1971 and 1972

People

- William L. Guy, 1919-2013
- Frank A. Wenstrom, 1903-1997
- Roy Gilbreath, 1930-

Locations

- Bismarck, North Dakota

Journal Articles

The Constitutional Convention of 1972
North Dakota Blue Book 1973

21181 Thomas J. Brakke Collection

Four audio cassettes about the North Dakota Constitutional Convention. Three of the tapes are of state politicians speaking on issues on the floor, and one tape is titled "Proposed 1972 Constitution for North Dakota." Thomas Brakke farmed near Aneta, Steele County (N.D.), and was a state representative for the district.

30057 Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972. Executive Director's Files.

Series consists of correspondence, reports, memoranda, news releases, proposals, resolutions, committee minutes, photographs, and printed material.

30058 Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972. Committee and Delegate Proposals.

Series consists of committee and delegate proposals from the Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972.

30059 Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972. Transcripts of Proceedings.

Series consists of the transcripts of proceedings for the Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972.

30062 Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972. Scrapbooks.**30910 Secretary of State. Constitutional Convention. Convention Delegate Petitions.**

Secretary of State. Constitutional Convention, Constitutional Convention Delegate Petitions, 1970.

31732 Secretary of State. North Dakota Constitution

This series contains the handwritten original draft of the North Dakota Constitution. Also included is correspondence and a draft of the Constitution from the Constitutional Convention of 1972.

Books

North Dakota Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972: A Newspaper Account
1974 - Richard J. Wolfert
Call Number: 342.784029 W832n 1974

North Dakota Constitutional Convention: Biographies of Delegates and Staff
1971 – edited by Boyd L. Wright
Call Number: 342.784029 W93

Constitutional Convention: Will it be in 1970?
1969 – North Dakota Farmers Union
Call Number: 342.784 C7582 1969

Constitutional Convention 1972
1972 – Legislative Department; North Dakota Farmers Union
Brief sketch of the Hidatsa and an incomplete vocabulary
Call Number: 342.784 C7582 1972

Constitutional Convention News: A Newsletter for Delegates to the North Dakota Constitutional Convention
1971 – Office of the Executive Director; North Dakota Constitutional Convention
Call Number: 342.784 C766n

Convention Profile and Individual Biographies
1971 – Boyd L. Wright and Lloyd A. Bakken
Call Number: 342.784 N814 C

Constitution for North Dakota as Recommended by the Convention Committees
1971—Bureau of Governmental Affairs, University of North Dakota
Call Number: 342.784 N814 L

Journal: North Dakota Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972
1972—North Dakota Constitutional Convention
Call Number: 342.784 N814j

Online Resources

Constitutional Convention, 1971-1972
State Historical Society of North Dakota website

SHSND Photobook
State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

Digital Horizons
Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

WorldCat
State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[Sample Ballot: Primary Election September 1, 1970](#)
Towner County Record Herald from August 20, 1970

[All 'Powers of the People' Retained, but Voters Get Choice on Signers Required](#)
Tioga Tribune from April 12, 1972

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



North Dakota State Archives Subject Guides made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).