

**W. R. "Bob" Poage State Legislative papers.**  
**Inclusive: 1923-1971, undated, Bulk: 1933-1936**  
**Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library**  
**Baylor University, Waco, Texas**

**Summary Information**

<b>Creator</b>	Poage, W. R. (William Robert), 1899 - 1987
<b>Extent (quantity/size)</b>	11 document boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The W. R. "Bob" Poage State Legislative Papers house personal and political materials from Poage's career in the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. Records include correspondence, legislation, news clippings, campaign materials, and other items.

**Subjects**

Alcohol -- Taxation. / Chain stores -- Taxation -- Texas. / Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) / Correspondence. / Legislators -- Texas - Archives. / Poage, W. R. (William Robert), 1899-1987. / Political campaigns -- Texas. / Politicians -- Texas. / Records (Documents) / Speeches. / Texas -- Politics and government. / Texas. Legislature. House of Representatives. / Texas. Legislature. Senate.

**Administrative Information**

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Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

<b>Preferred Citation</b>	When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: W. R. Poage State Legislative Papers, Accession #1A, Box #, Folder #, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.
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<b>Processing Information</b>	Described by Sylvia Hernandez; Mary Goolsby and released on 2019-08-12.
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**Scope and Content**

The W. R. Poage State Legislative papers cover the period 1923-1971, however, the bulk of material is dated 1933-1936 during Poage's tenure as Texas State Senator in the 43rd and 44th Legislatures.

Materials include correspondence, topical files, campaign files, and newspaper clippings. The papers are arranged chronologically and cover issues such as horse racing, alcohol taxation, and regulation of chain stores in the 13th State Senate district which included the counties of McLennan, Falls, Milam, and Limestone.

**Administrative/Biographical History**

William Robert "Bob" Poage was born in Waco, Texas, on December 28, 1899. His early life was marked by moves to Albany, Texas, and Throckmorton County, Texas where his father owned or leased ranchlands. The Poages returned to Waco in 1913, and Bob graduated from Waco High School in 1918. He briefly attended Texas A&M, then joined the U.S. Navy at the end of World War I.

Following the war, Poage enrolled at Baylor University. During the summer of 1919, Poage attended summer courses at the University of Texas where he was exposed to the state legislature. He returned to Baylor and completed his A.B. in Geology in 1921.

While attending Baylor, and for a short time after, Poage worked as a farmhand. Upon his return to Baylor in 1922, Poage taught geology and worked on his law degree. In 1923, Poage completed courses at the University of Colorado and obtained his LL.B from Baylor in 1924.

While still a law student, Poage ran for his first political office. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1924 and served in this capacity for four years while practicing law in Waco. Poage ran an unsuccessful campaign for State Senator against Edgar Witt in 1928. This led him back to Waco to practice law full-time.

Poage ran for re-election to the Texas Legislature in 1930 against Frank Baldwin and won the nomination. However, he declined this nomination to pursue the state Senate seat vacated by Edgar Witt upon his election as lieutenant governor. Poage won the vote in a special election and served the remainder of Witt's term; he ran successfully for two additional terms serving as a Texas State Senator from 1931-1937.

In 1934, W. R. Poage ran for the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time amid declining approval for sitting Congressman O.H. Cross. Poage was unsuccessful in this bid. In 1936, he once again opposed Cross, this time defeating the Congressman. In 1937, Poage began his freshman campaign of a longstanding career in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Poage announced his retirement from Congress in 1977, and resigned December 1978. In 1979, the W. R. Poage Legislative Library, built in Poage's honor, was opened on the Baylor University campus in Waco. The library housed Congressman Poage's office throughout his retirement and continues to house his papers. W. R. Poage passed away in Temple, Texas, on January 3, 1987, and is buried in Waco's Oakwood Cemetery.

## Related Resources

### Related records in other Archive collections

W. R. "Bob" Poage Campaign papers, Inclusive: 1898-1997, undated, Bulk: 1936-1978

W. R. "Bob" Poage Texas Development papers, Inclusive: 1913-1979, undated, Bulk: 1946-1978

### Related citations

Poage, W. R. *My First 85 Years*. Waco: Texian Press, 1985.

## Archival Arrangement

The Poage State papers were previously included as the first series of the W. R. "Bob" Poage papers. The W. R. "Bob" Poage State Legislative papers have been separated to create their own collection and better identify Poage's work on the state level.

The State Legislative papers are organized into three series: I. Correspondence, II. Legislative, and III. Personal. The Personal series is further divided into three sub-series: I. Campaigns, II. Press, and III. Speeches and Programs.

## Series 1: Correspondence. 1933-1971

### Administrative Information

#### Processing Information

Archivist's Notes: Items in Series I. Correspondence labeled "Applications, Appointments, Recommendations" were sampled to reduce the amount of similar materials. Sampling rate was one out of ten items.

### Administrative/Biographical History

Series I. Correspondence houses letters concerning appointments, job applications for state positions, and political matters within the 13th State Senate District of Texas (McLennan, Falls, Milam, and Limestone counties). The series has an inclusive date range of 1933-1971, however, most of the materials are dated 1933-1936 and are representative of the years Poage was in the Texas Senate. Materials are organized chronologically by year, then alphabetically within each year. The series is in good condition.

Box 1. Folder 1. Acknowledgements, 1933

Box 1. Folder 2. Agriculture, 1933

Box 1. Folder 3. Alcohol, 1933

Box 1. Folder 4. Anti-Trust Laws, 1933

Box 1. Folder 5. Applications, Appointments, Recommendations, 1933

Box 1. Folder 6. Banking, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 7. Bonds, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 8. Budget, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 9. Education, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 10. Elections, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 11. Events, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 11A. Gas, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 12. Highways, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 13. Home Loans, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 14. Hospitals, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 15. Hunting, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 16. Insurance, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 17. Judiciary, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 18. Notary Public Appointments, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 19. Pension Laws, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 20. Personal, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 21. Railways, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 22. Recommendations, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 23. Redistricting, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 23A. Sales Taxes, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 24. Telephone, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 25. Texas, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 26. Unemployment, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 27. Veterans, 1933  
Box 1. Folder 28. Acknowledgements, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 29. Agriculture, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 30. Alcohol, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 31. Applications, Appointments, Recommendations, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 32. Appropriations, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 33. Banking, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 34. Baylor, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 35. Brazos River Development, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 36. Cement Plant in Waco, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 37. Education, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 38. Elections, 1934  
Box 1. Folder 39. Environment, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 1. Events, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 2. Gas, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 3. Higher Education, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 4. Highways, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 5. Horse Racing, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 6. Judiciary, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 7. Labor, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 8. Law enforcement, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 9. Legislature, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 10. Notary, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 11. Pari-mutuel, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 12. Post Office, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 13. Railways, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 14. Senate Investigating Committee, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 15. State Parks, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 16. State Prisons, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 17. Taxes, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 18. Telephone, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 18A. Texas Centennial Committee, 1934-1935  
Box 2. Folder 19. Texas Relief Commission, 1934

Box 2. Folder 20. Transportation, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 21. Veterans, 1934  
Box 2. Folder 22. Acknowledgements, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 23. Agriculture, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 24. Alcohol, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 25. Applications, Appointments, Recommendations, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 26. Appropriations, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 27. Army, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 28. Brazos River Conservation, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 29. Cartoons/Drawings, 1935  
Box 2. Folder 30. Chain Store Tax (1 of 2), 1935  
Box 2. Folder 31. Chain Store Tax (2 of 2), 1935  
Box 3. Folder 1. Dispensary, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 2. Driver License Law, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 3. Education, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 4. Elections, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 5. Employment, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 6. Events (1 of 2), 1935  
Box 3. Folder 7. Events (2 of 2), 1935  
Box 3. Folder 8. Fee System, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 9. Health Care, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 10. Higher Education, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 11. Highways, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 12. House Bill 100, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 13. Hughes, Sarah, Appointment as State District Judge, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 14. Hunting, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 15. Insurance, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 16. Labor, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 17. Legislature (1 of 2), 1935  
Box 3. Folder 18. Legislature (2 of 2), 1935  
Box 3. Folder 19. Mental Health, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 19A. Nine-Juror Rule, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 20. Notary, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 21. Oil and Gas, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 22. Old Age Pension, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 23. Petitions, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 24. Prison, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 25. Railways, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 26. Security Act, 1935  
Box 3. Folder 27. Social Security, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 1. Tax (1 of 2), 1935  
Box 4. Folder 2. Tax (2 of 2), 1935  
Box 4. Folder 3. Texas Ports, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 3A. Texas River Board, Fraud Investigation, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 4. Texas Relief Commission, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 5. Veterans, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 6. Youth, 1935  
Box 4. Folder 7. Acknowledgements (1 of 2), 1936  
Box 4. Folder 8. Acknowledgements (2 of 2), 1936  
Box 4. Folder 9. Agriculture, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 10. Applications, Appointments, Recommendations, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 11. Banking, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 12. Child Labor, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 13. Driver's License, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 14. Education, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 15. Elections, 1936

Box 4. Folder 16. Electrification, 1936  
Box 4. Folder 17. Employment, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 1. Events, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 2. Health, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 3. Highways, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 4. Hospital, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 5. Insurance, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 6. Legislation, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 7. Mental Health, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 8. Nominations, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 9. Notary, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 10. Old Age Pensions (1 of 2), 1936  
Box 5. Folder 11. Old Age Pensions (2 of 2), 1936  
Box 5. Folder 12. Schools, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 13. School for the Blind, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 14. Social Security Act, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 15. Tax, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 16. Texas Centennial Celebration, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 17. Veterans, 1936  
Box 5. Folder 18. Legislation, 1940  
Box 5. Folder 19. Veterans, 1940  
Box 5. Folder 20. Legislation, 1942  
Box 5. Folder 21. Insurance, 1946  
Box 5. Folder 22. Legislation, 1946  
Box 5. Folder 23. Texas State Journal, 1971

## **Series 2: Legislative. 1925-1936, undated**

### **Administrative/Biographical History**

Series II. Legislative covers a wide range of topics including horse racing, alcohol taxation, and the regulation of chain stores. Also included are state responses to early New Deal programs. This series is arranged chronologically by year and alphabetically within each year. Most of the materials are in good condition.

Box 6. Folder 1. Civil Court Cases Bill, undated  
Box 6. Folder 2. Fair Associations and Governing State Board, House Bill #157, undated  
Box 6. Folder 3. Rate-Making Bodies and Injunctions, Senate Bill #6, undated  
Box 6. Folder 4. Taxes, undated  
Box 6. Folder 5. General, 1925  
Box 6. Folder 6. General, 1927  
Box 6. Folder 7. Motor Bus Rules and Regulations Adopted by the Railroad Commission of Texas, 1929  
Box 6. Folder 8. Notes on Laws of States Fixing the Number of Jurors, 1929 January  
Box 6. Folder 9. Anti-Technicality Bills, circa 1930's  
Box 6. Folder 10. Insurance, 1931 September 10  
Box 6. Folder 11. General, 1932  
Box 6. Folder 12. Sales Taxes, 1932, undated  
Box 6. Folder 13. General, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 14. Alcohol, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 15. Anti-Trust Laws, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 16. County Boundaries and Alterations, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 17. Court Jurisdiction, McLennan County, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 18. Dove and Quail Season, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 19. Fire Insurance Appraisal Bill, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 20. Guarantee Deposit Bill State Banks, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 21. Insurance, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 22. Medical Practice Act, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 23. Mineral Rights Recovery, 1933  
Box 6. Folder 24. Motor Carrier Law and Rules and Regulations Adopted by the Railroad Commission of Texas, 1933

Box 6. Folder 25. Oil, 1933-1936  
Box 7. Folder 1. Propagation of Wild Game Funds, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 2. Public School Funding, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 3. Railroads, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 4. Redefining "Loan Broker", 1933  
Box 7. Folder 5. Regulating Non-Intoxicating Beer, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 6. Regulatory, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 7. Salaries, Road Supervisor, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 8. Schools, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 9. Senate Simple Resolutions, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 10. Sherriff as Assessor and Collector of Taxes, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 11. Taxes, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 12. Tax on Malt, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 13. Workmen's Compensation Amendment, 1933  
Box 7. Folder 14. General, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 15. Alcohol Regulation, Senate Bill #1, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 16. Appropriations, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 17. Axtell High School, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 18. Chain Store Investigation, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 19. Chain Store Tax (1 of 2), 1935  
Box 7. Folder 20. Chain Store Tax (2 of 2), 1935  
Box 7. Folder 21. Claims Against State, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 22. Contingencies, Legislator/Attorney, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 23. Cotton, 1935  
Box 7. Folder 24. Driver's Licensing, 1935  
Box 8. Folder 1. Natural Resources Taxes (1 of 3), 1935  
Box 8. Folder 2. Natural Resources Taxes (2 of 3), 1935  
Box 8. Folder 3. Natural Resources Taxes (3 of 3), 1935  
Box 8. Folder 4. Omnibus Tax Bill, 1935  
Box 8. Folder 5. Poll Tax Exemptions, House Bill #95, 1935  
Box 8. Folder 6. Railroads, 1935  
Box 8. Folder 7. Report on Insurance Department Made to Senate Investigating Committee, 1935  
Box 9. Folder 1. Roads, Bell County, 1935, undated  
Box 9. Folder 2. Social Security, 1935  
Box 9. Folder 3. Taxes, Delinquent, 1935  
Box 9. Folder 4. Texas Memorial Museum, 1935  
Box 9. Folder 5. Utility Tax, House Bill #21, 1935  
Box 9. Folder 6. General, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 7. Amendments to Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Senate Bill #3780, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 8. Injunctions, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 9. Insurance Investigation Report, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 10. Natural Resources Tax, House Bill #8, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 11. Natural Resources Tax, 1936-1937  
Box 9. Folder 12. Rural Representation in the Legislature, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 13. Sales Tax, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 14. Senate Investigating Committee, Report from Tom Deberry, 1936  
Box 9. Folder 15. Social Security, 1936

**Series 3: Personal. 1923-1936, undated**

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Series III. Personal is dated 1923-1936, and divided into three subseries: Campaigns, Press, and Speeches and Programs.

The Campaigns subseries includes itineraries, speeches, and materials from Congressman Bob Poage's unsuccessful run for the U.S. House of Representatives against O.H. Cross in 1934, as well as his successful campaign against Cross in 1936.

The Press subseries includes news clippings about Poage and his campaigns as well as newsletters printed while he was in state

office.

The Speeches and Programs subseries includes one speech by Poage and several given to him by others. The two programs are from the 1917 and 1919 Texas Gubernatorial Inaugural Balls.

The materials in this series are arranged in chronological order and are in good condition.

#### **Subseries 1. Campaigns. 1923-1936**

- Box 10. Folder 1. McLennan County Roadmap, 1923
- Box 10. Folder 2. Advisement, Announcement Opposition and Support, 1934
- Box 10. Folder 3. Appearances, Opposition and Support, 1934
- Box 10. Folder 4. Expenses, 1934
- Box 10. Folder 5. Itinerary and Advisements, 1934
- Box 10. Folder 6. Speeches, 1934
- Box 10. Folder 7. Congressional Race Speculation, 1935
- Box 10. Folder 8. Advertisements, Speeches, and Support, 1936
- Box 10. Folder 9. Appearances and Support (1 of 3), 1936
- Box 11. Folder 1. Appearances and Support (2 of 3), 1936
- Box 11. Folder 2. Appearances and Support (3 of 3), 1936
- Box 11. Folder 3. Congressional Campaign, Announcement and Support, 1936
- Box 11. Folder 4. Speeches, O.H. Cross, 1936

#### **Subseries 2. Press. 1932-1936**

- Box 11. Folder 5. News Clippings, 1932
- Box 11. Folder 6. News Clippings, 1933
- Box 11. Folder 7. News Clippings, 1934
- Box 11. Folder 8. News Clippings, 1935
- Box 11. Folder 9. Newsletters, State Senate, 1935
- Box 11. Folder 10. News Clippings, 1936
- Box 11. Folder 11. Newsletters, State Senate, 1936

#### **Subseries 3. Speeches and Programs. 1934-1936, undated**

- Box 11. Folder 12. Address of Honorable Nelson Phillips before Judiciary Committee of the Senate in 1909 in Opposition to Bill to Abolish Unanimity of Jury Verdicts, undated
- Box 11. Folder 13. Navy Day Speech by Bob Poage, circa 1934
- Box 11. Folder 14. "The Supreme Court of the United States, the Constitution, and its Amendments" by Honorable William E. Masterson, 1936
- Box 11. Folder 15. Texas Gubernatorial Inaugural Ball Programs, 1917-1919