Summary Information

Creator
Poage, William Robert "Bob", 1899 - 1987

Extent (quantity/size)
9 document boxes

Language
English

Abstract
The W. R. "Bob" Poage State Legislative Papers hold personal and political materials from Poage’s career in the Texas House of Representatives and as a State Senator. Records include correspondence, legislation, news clippings, campaign materials, and other items.

Subjects

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access and Use
All requests for copying of materials must be submitted to the W. R. Poage Legislative Library in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet. Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator (s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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

Preferred Citation
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.

Processing Information
Described by Sylvia Hernandez.

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 McLennan, Falls, Milam, and Limestone counties.

Administrative/Biographical History
William Robert “Bob” Poage was born in Waco, McLennan County, Texas, December 28, 1899. His early life was spotted with moves to Albany, Texas, and Throckmorton County as his father owned or leased ranchlands in the areas. Bob Poage returned to Waco in 1913 and graduated from Waco High School in 1918. He briefly attended Texas A&M, then joined the Navy and 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 time after, Poage worked as a farm hand. 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, Texas. 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 State Senator from 1931-1937.

In 1934, W. R. Poage ran for 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, Texas. 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.

Related Resources
Related citations

Archival Arrangement
The Poage State papers were previously included as the first series of the W. R. “Bob” Poage papers. The Texas State Senate Files dated 1923-1971 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 3 series: Correspondence, Legislative, and Personal. The Personal series is further divided into Campaigns and Press.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1933-1971

Administrative Information
Processing Information
Archivist’s Notes: Items in the Correspondence series labeled “Applications, Appointments, Recommendations” were sampled to reduce the amount of similar materials. Sampling rate was one of ten items.

Administrative/Biographical History
The Correspondence series contains materials concerning appointments, job applications for state positions, and political matters within the 13th State Senate district (McLennan, Falls, Milam, and Limestone counties). The series is dated 1933-1971, however the bulk of materials is dated 1933-1936, and is representative of the years Poage was in office. Materials are organized alphabetically by topic and 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 12. Gas, 1933
Box 1. Folder 13. Highways, 1933
Box 1. Folder 14. Home Loans, 1933
Box 1. Folder 15. Hospitals, 1933
Box 1. Folder 16. Hunting, 1933
Box 1. Folder 17. Insurance, 1933
Box 1. Folder 18. Judiciary, 1933
Box 1. Folder 19. Notary Public Appointments, 1933
Box 1. Folder 20. Pension Laws, 1933
Box 1. Folder 21. Personal, 1933
Box 1. Folder 22. Railways, 1933
Box 1. Folder 23. Recommendations, 1933
Box 1. Folder 24. Redistricting, 1933
Box 1. Folder 25. Telephone, 1933
Box 1. Folder 26. Texas, 1933
Box 1. Folder 27. Unemployment, 1933
Box 1. Folder 28. Veterans, 1933
Box 1. Folder 29. Acknowledgment, 1934
Box 1. Folder 30. Agriculture, 1934
Box 1. Folder 31. Alcohol, 1934
Box 1. Folder 32. Applications, Appointments, Recommendations, 1934
Box 1. Folder 33. Appropriation, 1934
Box 1. Folder 34. Banking, 1934
Box 1. Folder 35. Baylor, 1934
Box 1. Folder 36. Brazos River Development, 1934
Box 1. Folder 37. Cement Plant in Waco, 1934
Box 1. Folder 38. Education, 1934
Box 1. Folder 39. Elections, 1934
Box 1. Folder 40. 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. Tax, 1934
Box 2. Folder 18. Telephone, 1934
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 5. Folder 7. Mental Health, 1936
Box 5. Folder 8. Nominations, 1936
Box 5. Folder 9. Notary, 1936
Box 5. Folder 10. Pension, 1936
Box 5. Folder 11. Old Age Assistance, 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**

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Legislative files cover 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 alphabetically by topic, then chronologically. It is in good condition and dated 1925-1936.

Box 6. Folder 1. General, 1925
Box 6. Folder 2. General, 1927
Box 6. Folder 3. General, 1932
Box 6. Folder 4. Appropriations, 1932
Box 6. Folder 5. Alcohol, 1933
Box 6. Folder 6. Anti-trust Laws, 1933
Box 6. Folder 7. County Boundaries and Alterations, 1933
Box 6. Folder 8. Court Jurisdiction, McLennan County, 1933
Box 6. Folder 9. Dove and Quail Season, 1933
Box 6. Folder 10. Fire Insurance Appraisal Bill, 1933
Box 6. Folder 11. General, 1933
Box 6. Folder 12. Guarantee Deposit Bill State Banks, 1933
Box 6. Folder 13. Insurance, 1933
Box 6. Folder 14. Legislation, 1933
Box 6. Folder 15. Medical Practice Act, 1933
Box 6. Folder 17. Oil, 1933
Box 6. Folder 18. Propagation of Wild Game Funds, 1933
Box 6. Folder 19. Public School Funding, 1933
Box 6. Folder 20. Railroads, 1933
Box 6. Folder 22. Regulating Non-Intoxicating Beer, 1933
Box 6. Folder 23. Salaries: Road Supervisor, 1933
Box 6. Folder 24. School, 1933
Box 6. Folder 25. Senate Simple Resolutions, 1933
Box 6. Folder 26. Sherriff as Assessor and Collector of Taxes, 1933
Box 6. Folder 27. Tax, 1933
Box 6. Folder 28. Tax on Malt, 1933
Box 7. Folder 1. Workman’s Compensation Amendment, 1933
Box 7. Folder 2. Chain Store Investigation, 1935
Box 7. Folder 3. Chain Store Tax (1 of 2), 1935
Box 7. Folder 4. Chain Store Tax (2 of 2), 1935
Series 3: Personal. 1923-1936

Administrative/Biographical History
The Personal series is dated 1923-1936 and divided into two subseries: Campaigns and Press. The Campaigns subseries includes itineraries, speeches, and materials from Congressman Poage’s unsuccessful run for the U.S. House of Representatives against O. H. Cross in 1934, as well as his successful campaign in 1936. The Press subseries includes news clippings about Poage and his campaigns and newsletters printed while he was in state office. The series is in chronological order and in good condition.

Subseries 1. Campaigns. 1923-1936

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

Subseries 2. Press. 1932-1936

Box 9. Folder 11. Newsletters, State Senate, 1936