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
Creator  

Extent (quantity/size)  
11 document boxes

Language  
English

Abstract  
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

Administrative Information
Restrictions on Access and Use  
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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; Mary Goolsby and released on 2019-08-12.

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
Related citations

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
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
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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 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 9. Folder 1. Roads, Bell County, 1935, undated
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 10. Natural Resources Tax, House Bill #8, 1936
Box 9. Folder 12. Rural Representation in the Legislature, 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 Campaign 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
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 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