Summary Information


Extent (quantity/size): 58 document boxes and 1 oversized box.

Language: English

Media: Photo negative; Postcards

Abstract: The W. R. "Bob" Poage Campaign papers consist of materials produced during the political campaigns of Bob Poage, primarily as the U.S. Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of Texas from 1937 to 1978. The collection includes correspondence, financial documents, subject files, and promotional materials relating to his campaigns in Central Texas as well as the broader changes affecting the Democratic Party in the mid-twentieth century.

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 Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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.
Scope and Content
The collection's inclusive date range covers nearly one hundred years of history (1898 to 1997) but the bulk of the materials stem from Congressman Bob Poage's career as a U.S. Representative (1937 to 1978).

Files from the late 1930's detail Poage's rise to prominence and his early years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Much of the materials focus on O.H. Cross, Poage's predecessor from the Eleventh District of Texas, as well as the effects the New Deal was having on Poage's constituents.

Materials from the 1940's relate to World War II and Poage's hope for neutrality prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. In addition to Poage's budding friendship with fellow Texan Lyndon B. Johnson, these years also reflect changes in the Democratic Party, particularly in members from the Southern states. The late 1940's and the early 1950's reflect the prominent issues of the day such as Civil Rights and communism.

The 1960's attest to Poage's friendships with and support of President John F. Kennedy and his successor Lyndon Johnson. The 1970's, Poage's final decade in Washington, D.C., focus on the Nixon Administration, the addition of new counties into the Eleventh Congressional District, and tough political opposition in candidates such as Murray Watson, Jack Burgess, and Lane Denton. The scope of the collection concludes with Poage's retirement in 1978 and his careful monitoring of the election that year, a race won by Marvin Leath.

Administrative/Biographical History
William Robert “Bob” Poage, the son of William Allen Poage and Helen Wheeler Conger, was born on December 28, 1899, in Waco, Texas. The Poage family moved to Throckmorton County shortly thereafter where William A. Poage worked as a rancher and cattleman. The Poages eventually returned to Waco in 1913. Five years later, in 1918, Poage graduated from Waco High School and joined the U.S. Navy as an apprentice seaman during the waning months of World War I.

After the war, Poage briefly attended classes at the University of Texas and the University of Colorado at Boulder before enrolling at Baylor University. In 1921, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in geology. Poage taught geology from 1922 to 1924, while simultaneously working on his law degree. In 1924, he earned his law degree from Baylor University and gained admittance to the Texas Bar.

In that same year, Poage ran for political office, winning a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. He served in the Texas House from 1925 to 1929, all while practicing law in Waco and teaching at Baylor Law School. In 1928, Poage attempted but lost a bid for a seat in the Texas Senate and briefly returned to civilian life. In 1931, Poage sought to fill a Senate seat vacated by Edgar Witt. He won the special election this time, ultimately serving in the Texas Senate from 1931 to 1937.

Striving to increase his political influence, Poage tried to unseat U.S. Representative O.H. Cross of the Eleventh Congressional District of Texas. Poage lost in 1934 but succeeded in defeating Cross in 1936. It was to be the
start of a long-tenured career for the Texas Democrat. On February 14, 1938, amidst his political successes, Poage married Frances Lenoir Cotton.

Poage served in the U.S. House from 1937 until his retirement in 1978, often running unopposed in the biennial elections. Drawing from his childhood experiences and education, Poage championed life in rural America, seeking improvements such as water and telephone services and helping to establish the Rural Electrification Administration. Often referred to as “Mr. Agriculture”, Poage was a key member of the House Agriculture Committee from 1941 to 1978, chairing the committee from 1967 to 1974. Upon his retirement from the House in 1978, Poage was succeeded by Democrat Marvin Leath.

The W. R. Poage Legislative Library was opened in September 1979 in honor of Representative Poage and serves as the repository for his personal and congressional papers. Poage wrote five books during his lifetime including three in retirement: After the Pioneers (1969), Politics-Texas Style (1974), How We Lived (1980), McLennan County Before 1980 (1981), and his autobiography, My First 85 Years (1985).

Poage passed away during open-heart surgery in Temple, Texas, on January 3, 1987, and is buried in Waco’s Oakwood Cemetery.

**Related Resources**

**Related records in other Archive collections**
- William Robert "Bob" Poage Papers

**Related citations**

**Archival Arrangement**

The W. R. “Bob” Poage papers have been processed previously, most notably in 1995. Detailed finding aids and folder listings existed prior to this latest round of processing.

Due to the large size of the collection, the W. R. “Bob” Poage papers have been divided into six new collections based on the existing series outline. The documents in the Campaign papers were originally housed in boxes #1381-1420 and boxes #1577-1578. Some loose materials have also been integrated with these files.

This collection is now arranged according to material type. In the past, these materials were divided into Correspondence Files and Reference Files. The latter section has been renamed “Subject Files”, and two other series have been created due to the prevalence of financial and promotional materials. Thus, the collection is currently arranged into four series: I. Correspondence, II. Financial Documents, III. Subject Files, and IV. Promotional Materials.

There are two arrangement schemes present in this collection. Series I. Correspondence and Series II. Financial Documents are arranged chronologically by year. Series III. Subject Files and Series IV. Promotional Materials are organized alphabetically by topic or type of material.
Series 1: Correspondence. 1936-1978

Administrative/Biographical History
Series I. Correspondence, the largest series in the collection, spans the entirety of Bob Poage's career in the U.S. House of Representatives, from his election in 1936 to his retirement in 1978. The majority of the folders are divided between correspondence with constituents, colleagues, Democratic campaign committees, and individuals or organizations from out-of-district. Folder organization changes with Poage's rising prominence in Congress and in the Democratic Party, shifting from mostly district and colleague correspondence to a wider range of topics and correspondents and a closer connection to national Democratic campaigns. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically and are in good condition.

Box 1. Folder 1. Frank Tirey Campaign, 1935-1936
Box 1. Folder 2. 1936 Campaign, 1936
Box 1. Folder 3. Congratulations, First Congressional Election (1 of 2), 1936
Box 1. Folder 4. Congratulations, First Congressional Election (2 of 2), 1936
Box 1. Folder 5. District, Postmaster General Visit, James Farley, 1937
Box 1. Folder 6. Colleagues and Democratic National Committee, 1937-1938
Box 1. Folder 7. District, 1937-1938
Box 1. Folder 8. 1940 Campaign, Original Letters, 1937-1940
Box 1. Folder 9. Announcement for Re-Election, 1938 June 7
Box 2. Folder 1. District, Local Opposition (1 of 3), 1938
Box 2. Folder 2. District, Local Opposition (2 of 3), 1938
Box 2. Folder 3. District, Local Opposition (3 of 3), 1938
Box 2. Folder 4. 1940 Campaign, Concerning O.H. Cross, 1938-1940
Box 2. Folder 5. District, American Neutrality, Local Opposition, 1939
Box 2. Folder 6. L.C. Alexander, 1939
Box 2. Folder 7. White House, Eleanor Roosevelt Visit to Waco, 1939
Box 2. Folder 8. Campaign, General (1 of 5), 1940
Box 2. Folder 9. Campaign, General (2 of 5), 1940
Box 3. Folder 2. Campaign, General (3 of 5), 1940
Box 3. Folder 3. Campaign, General (4 of 5), 1940
Box 3. Folder 4. Campaign, General (5 of 5), 1940
Box 3. Folder 5. Campaign, Bell County (1 of 3), 1940
Box 3. Folder 6. Campaign, Bell County (2 of 3), 1940
Box 3. Folder 7. Campaign, Bell County (3 of 3), 1940
Box 3. Folder 8. Campaign, Coryell County, 1939-1940
Box 3. Folder 9. Campaign, Falls County, 1939-1940
Box 4. Folder 1. Campaign, Milam County, 1939-1940
Box 4. Folder 2. Campaign, Endorsement Letters, 1940
Box 4. Folder 3. 1940 Campaign, Clarence Elwell, 1940
Box 4. Folder 4. 1940 Campaign, Myrtle Taylor, 1940
Box 4. Folder 5. 1940 Campaign, Outgoing Letters, 1940
Box 4. Folder 6. 1940 Campaign, Picnics, 1940
Box 4. Folder 7. 1940 Campaign, Scott Poage, 1940
Box 4. Folder 8. 1940 Campaign, L.C. Alexander, 1940
Box 9. Folder 17. Milano, Texas, 1942-1944
Box 9. Folder 20. Oglesby, Texas, 1944-1945
Box 9. Folder 22. Rockdale, Texas, 1942-1948
Box 9. Folder 27. Thorndale, Texas, 1942-1948
Box 9. Folder 28. Troy and Turnersville, Texas, 1942
Box 9. Folder 30. Waco, Texas (1 of 2), 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 1. Waco, Texas (2 of 2), 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 2. Wichita Falls, Texas, 1942-1944
Box 10. Folder 3. West, Texas, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 4. Walnut Springs, Texas, 1942-1949
Box 10. Folder 5. A, District, 1942-1946
Box 10. Folder 7. C, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 8. D, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 10. F, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 13. I, District, 1946
Box 10. Folder 15. K, District, 1942-1950
Box 10. Folder 16. L, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 17. Mc, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 18. M, District, 1942-1948
Box 10. Folder 20. O, District, 1942-1946
Box 11. Folder 1. P, District, 1942-1949
Box 11. Folder 2. R, District, 1942-1948
Box 11. Folder 3. S, District, 1942-1948
Box 11. Folder 4. T, District, 1942-1948
Box 28. Folder 5. Campaign Contributions (1 of 6), 1972
Box 28. Folder 6. Campaign Contributions (2 of 6), 1972
Box 29. Folder 1. Campaign Contributions (3 of 6), 1972
Box 29. Folder 2. Campaign Contributions (4 of 6), 1972
Box 29. Folder 3. Campaign Contributions (5 of 6), 1972
Box 29. Folder 4. Campaign Contributions (6 of 6), 1972
Box 29. Folder 5. Campaign Funds Refunds, 1972
Box 29. Folder 6. Campaign Georgetown 4-P Party, 1972
Box 29. Folder 7. Campaign Letters, 1972
Box 30. Folder 1. Campaign Letters, Agriculture, 1972
Box 30. Folder 2. Campaign Letters, Friends of Poage, 1972
Box 30. Folder 3. Campaign Letters, Responses of Support, 1972
Box 30. Folder 4. 1972 Campaign, Concerning Murray Watson, 1972
Box 30. Folder 5. Campaign, Newspaper Announcements and Accounts, 1972
Box 30. Folder 6. Campaign, Radio Announcement Requests and Scripts, 1972
Box 30. Folder 7. Campaign Thank You Letters, 1972
Box 30. Folder 8. Colleagues and Democratic Committees, 1972
Box 31. Folder 1. Constituent Congratulations and Appreciation, 1972
Box 31. Folder 2. General Congratulations, 1972
Box 31. Folder 3. District, 1972
Box 31. Folder 4. Gatesville/Belton, Mary Hardin-Baylor Visits, 1972
Box 31. Folder 5. Marlin Appreciation Dinners, 1972
Box 31. Folder 6. Out of District, 1972
Box 31. Folder 7. Volunteer Workers, 1972
Box 31. Folder 8. Campaign Contributions (1 of 3), 1973
Box 31. Folder 9. Campaign Contributions (2 of 3), 1973
Box 31. Folder 10. Campaign Contributions (3 of 3), 1973
Box 32. Folder 1. Colleagues and Democratic Committees, 1973
Box 32. Folder 2. District, 1973
Box 32. Folder 3. Military and Veterans Facilities, District, 1973
Box 32. Folder 4. New Counties in Eleventh District, 1973
Box 32. Folder 5. Out of District, 1973
Box 32. Folder 6. Taylor Barbeque, 1973
Box 32. Folder 7. 1974 Campaign, 1973-1975
Box 32. Folder 8. Campaign, 1974
Box 32. Folder 9. Campaign Announcements Requests and Accounts, 1974
Box 32. Folder 10. 1974 Campaign, Concerning Postcards, 1974
Box 32. Folder 11. Campaign Contributions, 1974
Box 33. Folder 1. Colleagues and Democratic Committees, 1974
Box 33. Folder 2. Congratulations, 1974
Box 33. Folder 3. District, 1974
Box 33. Folder 4. Hearne City Bribe Accusation (1 of 2), 1974
Box 33. Folder 5. Hearne City Bribe Accusation (2 of 2), 1974
Box 33. Folder 6. Out of District, 1974
Box 34. Folder 1. General, 1975
Box 34. Folder 2. Colleagues and Democratic Committees, 1975

Administrative/Biographical History
Series II. Financial Documents, the smallest series in the collection, contains a wide array of financial materials relating to Representative Bob Poage’s election campaigns. Some of the most common records found in this series include receipts of campaign expenses, reports filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and income tax reports. Poage also filed expenditure reports submitted by his political opponents. While the series
covers the entirety of Poage's political career in Washington, D.C., most of the materials are from the 1970's, Poage's final decade in office. This series is arranged chronologically and is in good condition.

Box 37. Folder 13. Ledger, Contributions and Expenses, 1936 Campaign, 1935-1936
Box 37. Folder 14. Frank Tirey Campaign, 1936
Box 37. Folder 15. Statements of Campaign Expenses, 1936 Campaign, 1936
Box 37. Folder 16. Campaign Expenses, 1940
Box 37. Folder 17. Statements, 1942 Campaign, 1942
Box 37. Folder 18. Correspondence and Statements, 1944 Campaign, 1944
Box 37. Folder 19. Expense Reports, 1948
Box 37. Folder 20. Expenditure Reports, 1950 Campaign, 1950
Box 37. Folder 21. Filing Fees and Campaign Expenses, 1952
Box 38. Folder 1. Filing Fees and Campaign Expenses (1 of 2), 1954
Box 38. Folder 2. Filing Fees and Campaign Expenses (2 of 2), 1954
Box 38. Folder 3. Newspaper Campaign Announcements, 1954
Box 38. Folder 5. Ledger, Campaign Account, 1965-1977 July
Box 38. Folder 6. Poage Election Campaign Accounts, Notebook (1 of 2), 1965-1976
Box 38. Folder 7. Poage Election Campaign Accounts, Notebook (2 of 2), 1965-1976
Box 38. Folder 9. 1972 Reports Filed with Clerk of the House (1 of 2), 1972-1973
Box 38. Folder 10. 1972 Reports Filed with Clerk of the House (2 of 2), 1972-1973
Box 39. Folder 2. Check Stubs, Campaign Account, 1972-1974
Box 39. Folder 3. Common Cause Campaign Funds Analysis, 1972
Box 39. Folder 4. Expenditure Reports, 1972 Primary Election, 1972
Box 39. Folder 5. Expenditure Reports, Bob Poage for Congress: Temple Committee, 1972
Box 39. Folder 6. Expenditure Reports, McLennan County Committee for Poage, 1972
Box 39. Folder 7. Expenditure Reports, Murray Watson, 1972
Box 39. Folder 11. Reports, State Campaign Fund, 1972
Box 39. Folder 14. 1973 Reports Filed with Clerk of the House, 1973
Box 40. Folder 1. Expenditures, 1973
Box 40. Folder 3. 1974 Reports Filed with Clerk of the House, 1974
Box 40. Folder 4. 1975 Reports Filed with Clerk of the House, 1974-1976
Box 40. Folder 5. Expenditure Reports, Connie Lawson, 1974-1975
Box 40. Folder 6. Expenditure Reports, Donald Wayne Clements, 1974-1975
Box 40. Folder 7. Expenditure Reports, Laurel N. Dunn, 1974-1975
Box 40. Folder 8. Expenditures, 1974 Campaign, 1974
Series 3: Subject Files. 1918-1981, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
Series III. Subject Files, formerly referred to as Reference Files in past finding aids, are a collection of materials accumulated by Representative Bob Poage and his staff relating to specific topics of interest. These include aspects of his own campaigns, the rise of national figures such as Adlai Stevenson and Lyndon B. Johnson, election results divided up by county, Poage's political rivals including Lane Denton and Murray Watson, voting records, and materials relating to Poage's retirement from the U.S. House in 1978. The series is arranged alphabetically by topic or material type and is in good condition.

Box 42. Folder 1. 1936 Campaign, Guide for Texas Democratic Primary and General Elections, 1936
Box 42. Folder 2. 1940 Campaign, Advertising, circa 1940
Box 42. Folder 3. 1940 Campaign, Broadcasting, 1940
Box 42. Folder 4. 1940 Campaign, Clippings (1 of 3), 1940
Box 42. Folder 5. 1940 Campaign, Clippings (2 of 3), 1940
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 8. 1940 Campaign, Clippings (3 of 3), 1940
Box 42. Folder 6. 1940 Campaign, Concerning Advertising Folders, 1940
Box 42. Folder 7. 1940 Campaign, County Mailing Lists, 1939-1941
Box 42. Folder 8. 1940 Campaign, Directory of Post Offices, Eleventh Congressional District, 1940 June
Box 42. Folder 9. 1940 Campaign, Lists of Correspondents, 1940, undated
Box 42. Folder 10. 1940 Campaign, Rally Thursday, Correspondence, 1940 July
Box 42. Folder 11. 1940 Campaign, Speeches Endorsing Poage, 1940
Box 42. Folder 12. 1940 Democratic Campaign, Clippings, 1937-1940
Box 42. Folder 13. 1944 Campaign, Clippings, 1943-1944, undated
Box 55. Folder 11. Roster of Cameron Residents Who Attended Poage’s Campaign Speech, 1940
Box 55. Folder 12. Ruby Mae Travis, Clippings and Promotional Materials, 1950
Box 55. Folder 13. Statistics for District Development, Correspondence and Reports, 1972-1981
Box 55. Folder 14. Steve Alexander, Clippings, 1976
Box 55. Folder 15. Texas Elections and Constitution (1 of 2), 1974
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 2. Texas Elections and Constitution (2 of 2), 1974
Box 55. Folder 16. Tom Connally, Clippings, 1952
Box 55. Folder 17. Voting Records, Seventy-First Congress, 1929-1931
Box 55. Folder 18. Voting Records, Seventy-Second Congress, 1931-1933
Box 55. Folder 19. Voting Records, Seventy-Third Congress, 1933-1934

**Series 4: Promotional Materials. 1898-1997, undated**

**Administrative Information**

**Processing Information**

Archivist's Notes: As a precaution, staff and patrons need to be careful in handling folders with pins in them.

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Series IV. Promotional Materials consists of paper-based documents and three-dimensional objects relating to Congressman Bob Poage's election campaigns for the Texas and U.S. House of Representatives as well as other politicians' campaigns in the mid-twentieth century. Prominent materials include brochures, pins, stickers, and posters. The series is arranged alphabetically by material type and is in fairly good condition.

Box 56. Folder 1. 1936 Campaign, 1935-1936
Box 56. Folder 2. Advertisements, circa 1936
Box 56. Folder 3. Advertisements, 1972
Box 56. Folder 5. Advertising Guides, 1972-1976, undated
Box 56. Folder 6. Advertising Offers, 1940
Box 56. Folder 7. Advertising Offers and Samples, 1974
Box 56. Folder 8. Advertising Offers, 1976
Box 56. Folder 9. Announcements by County, 1974
Box 56. Folder 12. Brochure, “He is Proven!” , circa 1972
Box 56. Folder 15. Brochure, “Lyndon B. Johnson is the Man who is Doing the Job”, circa 1940’s
Box 57. Folder 1. Campaign Cards, “Twelve Years Legislative Experience”, circa 1936
Box 57. Folder 2. Campaign Contribution Envelopes, 1972
Box 57. Folder 3. Card, “W. R. Poage for Representative Place No. 2”, 1924
Box 57. Folder 5. Cards, 1944 Campaign, 1944
Box 57. Folder 6. Cards, Re-Election, circa 1940
Box 57. Folder 7. Frank Tirey Campaign, 1935-1936
Box 57. Folder 8. Index to Campaign Buttons, 1990
Box 57. Folder 10. O.H. Cross, 1940 Campaign, 1940
Box 57. Folder 13. Picture Postcard Photographs and Negatives, 1973
Box 57. Folder 14. Pin, Bill Clinton Inauguration, 1997 January 20
Box 57. Folder 15. Pins, Adlai Stevenson for President, circa 1950’s
Box 57. Folder 16. Pins, American and Texan Flags, undated
Box 57. Folder 17. Pins, Ben Barnes for Governor of Texas, undated
Box 57. Folder 18. Pins, Binder, Scott Poage (1 of 4), 1898-1986, undated
Box 57. Folder 19. Pins, Binder, Scott Poage (2 of 4), 1898-1986, undated
Box 57. Folder 20. Pins, Binder, Scott Poage (3 of 4), 1898-1986, undated
Box 57. Folder 22. Pins, “Bob”, circa 1960’s
Box 57. Folder 23. Pins, Democratic Party, undated
Box 57. Folder 24. Pins, George McGovern for President, circa 1972
Box 58. Folder 1. Pins, Hubert Humphrey for President, circa 1968
Box 58. Folder 3. Pins, John Connally for Governor of Texas, undated
Box 58. Folder 4. Pins, John F. Kennedy for President, circa 1960
Box 58. Folder 5. Pins, Lyndon Johnson for President (1 of 2), circa 1964
Box 58. Folder 6. Pins, Lyndon Johnson for President (2 of 2), circa 1964
Box 58. Folder 7. Pins, “Poage is Proven”, undated
Box 58. Folder 8. Pins, Preston Smith for Governor of Texas, undated
Box 58. Folder 10. Pins, “Re-elect Poage to Congress”, undated
Box 58. Folder 11. Pins, U.S. Congress (1 of 3), undated
Box 58. Folder 12. Pins, U.S. Congress (2 of 3), undated
Box 58. Folder 13. Pins, U.S. Congress (3 of 3), undated
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 10. Poage Campaign Ads, Czech Community, 1972
Box 58. Folder 15. Poster, “Keep Bob Poage in Congress!”, undated
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 3. Poster, “Let’s Keep Bob...He’s Doing a Good Job”, 1972
Box 58. Folder 16. Poster, “Poage is Proven...” (1 of 2), circa 1970
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 4. Poster, “Poage is Proven...” (2 of 2), circa 1970
Box 58. Folder 17. Poster, “Promote Poage – He is Qualified”, circa 1936
Box 58. Folder 18. Poster, “Re-elect W. R. Poage for Congress”, circa 1940
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 5. Poster, “Who is the Friend of the Railroad Men?”, 1936
Box 58. Folder 22. Posters, W. R. (Bob) Poage for Congress, circa 1936
Box 58. Folder 23. Radio Endorsements and Speeches, 1940
Box 59 OVZ. Folder 7. Sponsored Comics, 1952, undated
Box 58. Folder 25. Sticker, “Johnson/Humphrey for the USA”, 1964
Box 58. Folder 27. Stickers, Dolph Briscoe for Governor of Texas, undated
Box 58. Folder 28. Stickers, General Politicians, 1956-1957, undated
Box 58. Folder 29. Stickers, Vote Democratic, undated
Box 58. Folder 30. Wooden Nickel, W. Marvin Watson for Governor of Texas, undated
Box 58. Folder 31. Volunteer Cards, 1972