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LG MS 24 LGBT Rights Legislation Collection Finding Aid

Julie Cismoski
University of Southern Maine

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**JEAN BYERS SAMPSON CENTER FOR DIVERSITY IN MAINE
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COLLECTION**

**LGBT RIGHTS LEGISLATION COLLECTION
LG MS 24**

**Total Boxes: 1
Linear Feet: 0.5**

**By
Julie Cismoski**

**Portland, Maine
March 2013
rev. 2018**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The LGBT Rights Legislation Collection was donated by Erica Rand, Professor of Art and Visual Culture and of Women and Gender Studies at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, circa 2005.

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Cite as: LGBT Rights Legislation Collection, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research. Some material has been restricted until 2036.

Historical Note

In 1978, California State Senator John Briggs wrote Proposition 6 to ban openly homosexual individuals and those who defended homosexuality from teaching or working in other positions in the state's public schools. The initiative was defeated by 58 to 42 percent of the votes.

In May of 1992 the Portland City Council approved a Human Rights Ordinance to ban discrimination based on sexual preference. A petition caused the City to hold a referendum to repeal the ordinance. The group Equal Protection/Portland was formed to work against the repeal. In a vote in November 1992 the ordinance was upheld by a margin of 57 to 43 percent.

In January 1993, after much debate, the Lewiston City Council passed an anti-discrimination ordinance by a five-to-two margin. The ordinance, which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, and the extension of credit, was initiated by Police Chief Laurent F. Gilbert, who had organized a Hate/Bias Crimes Task Force within his department in 1991. An opposition group – originally called ACT (All Catholics for Truth) and later operating under the name Citizens of Lewiston for the Repeal (COLFR) – then gathered enough signatures to put the ordinance to a public referendum, held in November 1993. Despite the efforts of the ordinance's supporters, led by the coalition Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL), the ordinance was overturned with a two-to-one margin.

In November of 1995 a state referendum, Question 1, asked voters if Maine's human rights law should be limited in its wording and not extend protection based on sexual orientation. A coalition, Maine Won't Discriminate, was formed to fight the referendum. If passed, the referendum would have repealed Portland's gay rights ordinance. However, the referendum was defeated by a 53 to 47 percent margin.

Description of the Collection

The Collection contains materials related to LGBT Rights Legislation from 1978 to 1995. Most items are photocopies or microform copies of press articles. The legislation covered includes Proposition 6, also known as The Briggs Initiative, in California in 1978; the 1992 Human

Rights Ordinance in Portland, Maine; the Lewiston Anti-Discrimination Ordinance in 1993; and the referendum Question 1 voted on in Maine in 1995. The section on the Lewiston Ordinance also contains a press kit and other materials from Equal Protection Lewiston. In addition to articles on rights legislation, there are some articles on other LGBT issues.

The Collection has been divided into six series:

1978 California Proposition 6
1992 Portland Human Rights Ordinance
1993 Lewiston Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
1995 Maine Question 1
Other LGBT Issues
Restricted

Series 1. 1978 California Proposition 6

This series comprises photocopies of articles from 1978 and 1979 covering the Briggs Initiative or Proposition 6. There are news articles and copies from the Opinion Section, including Editorial Cartoons, and "Vote No" advertisements from the L.A. Times and photocopies of articles from the San Francisco Chronicle.

Series 2. 1992 Portland Human Rights Ordinance

This series contains photocopies of news articles from Newsweek magazine, and the Portland Press Herald about the 1992 Portland [Maine] Human Rights Ordinance and an article about Measure 9 in Oregon. In addition, there are photocopies from the Opinion Section and advertisements from the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram.

Series 3. 1993 Lewiston Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

This series is divided into two sub-series: 3.1 Press Articles and 3.2 Equal Protection Lewiston.

3.1 Press Articles

The articles consist of photocopies and microform copies of news articles and advertisements supporting both sides from the Lewiston Sun-Journal. Other publications represented include Newsweek magazine, the Maine Times, Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram. There is also a Newsweek magazine with an article on the Lewiston ordinance and other articles related to LGBT issues.

3.2 Equal Protection Lewiston

There is an Equal Protection Lewiston Press Kit and campaign materials. The campaign materials include an agenda dated December 21, 1992; sample letters to Lewiston City Council Members; photocopy of a letter to the editor; Kennebec Journal, 1992 Dec 21; request to Faculty Members [Bates College] to write to City Council members urging support of the Ordinance; copies of letters sent to members of the City Council; and instructions on contacting Council Members by phone.

Series 4. Maine 1995 Question 1

This series includes photocopies of news articles from the Lewiston Sun-Journal and the Portland Press Herald, as well as from other publications: Maine Sunday Telegram, Bangor Daily News, Maine Times. There are also photocopies of advertisements from the Maine

Sunday Telegram, the Bangor Daily News, the Portland Press Herald, and the Lewiston Sun-Journal.

Series 5. Other LGBT Issues

While the majority of the collection focuses on LGBT Legislation, there are also photocopies of articles on the views of the Catholic Church and other LGBT issues. Related to the Catholic Church are a copy of a letter from Marc R. Mutty, Public Policy Coordinator, Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, stating that they will refrain from testifying against L.D. 430; an article from The Church World on the Catholic Church's views on homosexuality; statement from Rev. Michael J. Henchal, Chancellor, Diocese of Portland on the Catholic Church in Maine's views on gay rights; and other news articles on the Church. Other issues include homosexuals appointed in the Clinton administration and marketing products to homosexuals.

Series 6. Restricted

This series contains contact lists from Equal Protection Lewiston, restricted to protect the privacy of individuals.

Series 7. Addendum

This series contains materials received by the donor at a later date.

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
Series 1. 1978 California Proposition 6 (1978-1979)			
1	1	L.A. Times, news articles	1978-1979
1	2	L.A. Times, Opinion and advertisements	1978
1	3	San Francisco Chronicle	1978
Series 2. 1992 Portland Human Rights Ordinance (1992)			
1	4	News articles	1992
1	5	Opinion and advertisements	1992
1	19	Survey Results Equal Protection Portland	1992
		See Addendum	
Series 3.1 1993 Lewiston Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, Press Articles (1993-1994)			
1	6	Lewiston Sun-Journal, news articles	1993
1	7	Lewiston Sun-Journal, advertisements	1993
1	8	Other publications	1993-1994
1	9	Newsweek: article on Lewiston ordinance and other articles related to LGBT issues	1994 Feb 14
Series 3.2. 1993 Lewiston Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, Equal Protection Lewiston (1992-1993, undated)			
1	10	EPL Press Kit Some materials RESTRICTED	1993, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	11	Campaign Materials Some materials RESTRICTED	1992
Series 4. 1995 Maine Question 1 (1995, undated)			
1	12	Lewiston Sun-Journal	1995, undated
1	13	Portland Press Herald	1995
Series 4. 1995 Maine Question 1 (cont.)			
1	14	Other publications, news and opinion	1995
1	15	Advertisements	1995
Series 5. Other LGBT Issues (1991-1993, undated)			
1	16	Views of the Catholic Church	1991-1992, undated
1	17	Other LGBT issues	1978, 1992-1993, 1995-1996, undated
Series 6. Restricted			
FC	18	Equal Protection Lewiston. Typewritten contact list (Series 3.2, Folder 10); Handwritten contact lists (Series 3.2, Folder 11)	undated
Series 7. Addendum			
1	19	Survey Results Equal Protection Portland	1992