

Search the Manuscript Collection (Finding Aids) [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ Collection](#)

10-2011

LG MS 019 Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives Finding Aid

Maeve Wachowicz

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/lgbt_finding_aids

 Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), [Cultural History Commons](#), [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons](#), [Other Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ Collection at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Search the Manuscript Collection (Finding Aids) by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE LIBRARIES
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

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

**WESTBROOK CITIZENS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS ARCHIVES
LG MS 19**

**Total Boxes: 2
Mapcase Drawers: 1
Linear Feet: 3.75**

**By
Maeve Wachowicz**

**Portland, Maine
October 2011**

Copyright 2011 by the University of Southern Maine

Administrative Information

Provenance: Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives was donated by Mike Miles in 2010.

Ownership & Literary Rights: The Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives is the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or her/his legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

Cite as: Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on Access: The bulk of this collection is open for research. Some material has been restricted for 60 years to protect privacy rights.

Historical Note

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights (WCER) was a Political Action Committee (PAC) registered in Westbrook, Maine in June of 2002. WCER was formed to promote civil rights in Westbrook, and notably campaigned to uphold the Westbrook Human Rights Ordinance of 2002.

The introduction of the ordinance was initiated by Reverend Susan Gilpin, a citizen of Westbrook, after a gay couple in her neighborhood moved away because of routine harassment on the basis of their sexual orientation. Gilpin approached the City Council in February of 2002 about the issue, and was soon joined in her efforts by Michael Miles, the Human Resources Director at University of New England, and Tim Crellin, the chair of the School Board. Along with the council, the three began a local gay rights campaign and on July 29, 2002, the Council unanimously passed the measure, which intended “to correct and to prevent discrimination in employment, housing, access to public accommodations, and the extension of credit, on account of a person’s sexual orientation.”

However, some members of the Westbrook community, notably the Christian Coalition of Maine led by Executive Director, Paul Volle, opposed the ordinance, and were able to gather enough support to have the ordinance put on the November ballot in hopes of it being overturned by a public vote. On November 5, 2002, Westbrook citizens voted to uphold the ordinance, rejecting repeal with a narrow margin of 3,334 to 3,157.

Description of the Archives

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights Archives
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection
Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity
University of Southern Maine Libraries

The bulk of the materials in this collection pertain to the Human Rights Ordinance that was proposed and passed in Westbrook, Maine in 2002. There is also information on the 2003 election in Westbrook, information on similar ordinance campaigns in Falmouth, Maine Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Traverse City, Michigan, and additional resource articles, speeches, and publications. The Archives are organized in four series:

Series 1. Westbrook Human Rights Ordinance

This series contains campaign-related materials, including planning notes and outlines, flyers, brochures, newspaper clippings, campaign ads, volunteer instruction materials, and contact lists.

Series 2. 2003 Westbrook Election

This series contains some information on the 2003 Westbrook City Council election, which took place a year after the referendum vote on the ordinance. Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights wrote a letter to supporters of the ordinance reminding them which politicians had been supportive of the cause in the previous year. There is also a list of Maine legislative representatives included in this series.

Series 3. Non-Westbrook Campaigns

Series 3 contains materials from three other anti-discrimination ordinance campaigns, one in Falmouth, Maine between 1999-2000, one in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and one in Traverse City, Michigan. The Falmouth campaign materials include copies of a minority opinion report presented to the Sexual Orientation Ordinance Committee by West Falmouth Baptist Reverend Dr. Alfred J. Fletcher, telephone scripts and talking point documents for volunteers, articles, print/ mailing estimate costs, and letters. The materials from Kalamazoo are three different ads opposing 'Proposal A,' which would allow discrimination against gays and lesbians. The materials from Traverse City are ads and flyers opposed to 'Proposal 1,' which also would allow for discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Series 4. Resources

These resources include anti-gay materials from the Family Research Council and Americans for the Truth. There are also various opinion articles promoting gay rights.

Series 5. Restricted

This series consists of materials restricted from public access to guard the privacy of individuals. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location.

Series 6. Oversize

This series contains materials too large or bulky to fit into regular boxes. Listed within their regular series, they are included here to give their physical location.

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date(s)
Series 1. Westbrook Human Rights Ordinance			
1	1	Proposed Human Rights Ordinance	[2002]
1	2	WCER campaign planning notes, agendas, and outlines	2002
1	3	Mike Miles' notes, prepared remarks, editorial, campaign summary	[2002-2003]
1	4	WCER flyers, brochures, stickers, fact sheets	[2002]
		Campaign Signs: "Vote No - Westbrook Won't Discriminate" (3 c.) See Oversize	[2002]
1	5	Christian Coalition of Maine campaign pamphlets and correspondence	[2002]
1	6	Campaign ads	2002
1	7	Clippings	2002 Jul-2003 Apr, undated
1	8	Leadership endorsement letters, emails, and quotes	2002 Mar-Oct
1	9	Volunteer contact lists and instructive materials	2002 Jun-Oct
1	10	Campaign poll results	2002 Oct 18
1	11	Campaign supporter Thank-You letters	2002 Nov 19
1	12	Campaign finances - expense statements, invoices, advertising proposals	2002 Sep-Oct
		Campaign donation checks RESTRICTED	2002 Aug-Oct
1	13	Contact lists Some materials are RESTRICTED	2002 Sep, undated
Series 2. 2003 Westbrook Election			
1	14	Pledges of support and follow-up letter	2002 Jun 11, 2003 Oct 29
1	15	List of Maine legislators	undated
Series 3. Non-Westbrook Campaigns			
1	16	Falmouth, ME Some materials are RESTRICTED	1999 Mar-2000 Apr
1	17	Kalamazoo, MI	undated
1	18	Traverse City, MI	undated
Series 4. Resources			
1	19	Resource articles	1995 Sep 24, undated
1	20	Speech - Americans for the Truth	2000 Jun 15

1 21 Family Research Council publications undated

Series 5. Restricted

2 22 Campaign donation checks (Series 1) 2002 Aug-Oct

2 23 Items removed from Contact lists 2000 Jul-Oct
(Series 1, Folder 13)

2 24 Items removed from Falmouth, ME undated
(Series 3, Folder 16)

Series 6. Oversize

Mpcs4 Dr28 Campaign Signs: "Vote No – Westbrook Won't
Discriminate" [2002]