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Guide to the Equal Rights Nevada Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1d890>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Equal Rights Nevada
Title:	Equal Rights Nevada Collection
ID:	MS-00607
Date [inclusive]:	2000-2002
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Equal Rights Nevada (2000-2002) collection is comprised of organizational records documenting the group's unsuccessful fight against Question 2, a referendum voted upon in 2000 and 2002 to amend Nevada's state constitution to forbid same-sex marriage. It includes campaign files, financial records, publicity, correspondence, ephemera, and other supporting documentation from national and regional marriage equality organizations.

Preferred Citation Note

Equal Rights Nevada Collection, 2000-2002. MS-00607. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Organizational History

Equal Rights Nevada, an organization founded in 2000 by the Nevada gay community, fought the Question 2 referendum voted upon in 2000 and 2002 to amend the Nevada state constitution to forbid same-sex marriage. In spring of 2000 Bob Fulkerson, director of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN), founded the Campaign for Unity in Northern Nevada to fight the anti-same-sex marriage initiative. In July 2000 the Campaign for Unity became Equal Rights Nevada (ERN), however, Question 2 passed in 2000, and again in 2002, becoming a Nevada constitutional amendment.

The Nevada gay community enjoyed a string of political victories in the 1990s: repeal of the state's sodomy law in 1993, repudiation of the Minority Status and Child Protection Act in 1994, and the 1999 passage of employment non-discrimination legislation which included sexual orientation.

In 1996, the same year Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Christina Sealander and Royce Kohler established the Equal Right to Marry Project in Las Vegas through the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Even more unprecedented was the support shown by Las Vegas mayor Jan Laverty Jones who issued a proclamation declaring Thursday, February 12, 1998 to be National Freedom to Marry Day in Las Vegas. Equal marriage rights became the Nevada gay community's next political fight.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Equal Rights Nevada collection (2000-2002) is comprised of organizational records documenting the group's unsuccessful fight against Question 2, a referendum voted upon in 2000 and 2002 to amend Nevada's state constitution to forbid same-sex marriage. Materials include campaign files, financial records, publicity, correspondence, ephemera, and other supporting documentation from national and regional marriage equality organizations.

Chronology	
1993	Repeal of Nevada's sodomy law
1994	Repudiation of the Minority Status and Child Protection Act in Nevada
1996	Congress passes the Defense of Marriage Act
1998	Las Vegas declares February 12th National Freedom to Marry Day National Coalition for the Protection of Marriage founded
1999	Passage of employment non-discrimination legislation which included sexual orientation in Nevada National Coalition for the Protection of Marriage announced its referendum in Nevada (to be known as Question 2)
2000	Campaign for Unity founded in Northern Nevada Campaign for Unity became Equal Rights Nevada

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Arrangement Note

Material is arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Material donated by Dennis McBride in 2006; accession number 2006-014.

Appraisal Note

The collection contained a number of envelopes that were returned as undeliverable to the organization and these were subsequently discarded by SKC in summer 2006.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Dennis McBride in 2006. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hannah Robinson revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Hannah Robinson to bring it into compliance with DACS. June 2014

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Names and Subjects

- Gay rights -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- 21st century
- Same-sex marriage -- Law and legislation -- Nevada
- Gay rights
- Homophobia -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Equal Rights Nevada endorsements, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 01
Equal Rights Nevada faith, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 02
Equal Rights Nevada clergy, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 03
Bishops' letter, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 04
Nevada revised statute 123.020, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 05
Sue Burnside (Human Rights Campaign), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 06
Conover Millar Group (public relations), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 07
Thank you letters, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 08
Yard signs, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 09
Signs, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 10
House party tracking sheets, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 11
Data entry, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 12
PB W25-35 (folder of miscellaneous forms, brochures, fliers, notes), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 13
Equal Rights Nevada meeting notes and work agreements, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 14
Financial reports, 2000-2002		

	box 01	folder 15
Northern Nevada, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 16
Action, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 17
Phone bank results, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 18
Press kit of labor union campaign materials, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 19
Phone tally sheets, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 20
EN 501c4 application, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 21
Phone bank material, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 22
SOS-2002 (2002 PAC disclosure forms), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 23
Coalition for the Protection of Marriage in Nevada (ephemera), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 24
Phone bank volunteer sheets, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 25
Equal Rights Nevada memos to staff, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 26
Hospital visitation issue, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 27
HRC (Human Rights Campaign) initiative manual, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 28
We Are Family (Las Vegas organization), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 29
HP (house party) overview, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 30
Equal Rights Nevada media releases, 2002	box 01	folder 31
Equal Rights Nevada board nomination forms, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 32
R and R Partners: media releases; memos; financial, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 33
Las Vegas Gay Pride celebration, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 34
Treasurer, 2000-2002		

	box 01	folder 35
Equal Rights Nevada advisory council, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 36
Equal Rights Nevada brochures, fliers, signs, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 37
Brochure design and mocks, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 38
Spanish language fact sheet, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 39
Speech (sheets with talking points, campaign and fundraising suggestions), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 40
Blank volunteer sign-up sheets, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 41
F and F fliers and brochures, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 42
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Speaking engagements, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 44
Phone bank, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 45
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Campaign message and development, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 48
Target information, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 49
Equal Rights Nevada polling (Lake, Snell & Perry), 2000	box 01	folder 50
Equality Colorado, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 51
Victory Fund, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 52
HRC (Human Rights Campaign), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 53
NGLTF (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), 2000-2002	box 01	folder 54
Lois Tarkanian (includes right-wing Nevada voting guides), 2000		

	box 01	folder 55
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 56
Nebraska, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 57
Vermont, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 58
PAC disclosure forms, organizational chart, brochures, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 59
Campaign manager resumes and job description, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 60
PLAN (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada) survey and loose stack of Equal Rights Nevada bumper stickers, 2000-2002	box 01	folder 61
Financial records: bank statements, 2000-2002	box 02	folder 01
Nevada voter turnout statistics, 2002	box 02	folder 02
Candidate questionnaires, 2000-2002	box 02	folder 03
Equal Rights Nevada volunteer forms and logs, 2002	box 02	folder 04
Equal Rights Nevada volunteer and GOTV (Get Out the Vote) contact lists, 2002	box 02	folder 05
Voter phone lists, 2002	box 02	folder 06