

Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) Records, 1960-2009

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Choose an Effective City Council (Organization : Seattle, Wash.)
Title	Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) Records
Dates	1960-2009 (inclusive) 1960 2009
Quantity	4.36 cubic feet (6 boxes) 2 vertical files
Collection Number	4326
Summary	An organization that worked to achieve Seattle city government reform through candidate endorsements and watchdog activities, primarily in the early 1970s.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

CHECC—Choose an Effective City Council—was formed on Apr. 24, 1967, by a bi-partisan group of young professionals seeking to reform Seattle city government. Members of CHECC's core group were young lawyers, many of whom had worked together on an earlier effort to reform Washington's "blue" laws. Lem Howell, Thomas Alberg, Christopher Bayley, Bruce Chapman, and Peter LeSourd were among CHECC's founding members who would go on to become leading figures in Seattle's civic and political establishment.

Characterized by one political observer as a "movement," CHECC took advantage of a growing sentiment that Seattle's City Council, comprised of old-guard politicians whose average age was 68, was not up to the task of solving the problems facing a modern, rapidly-growing urban area. It sought out and endorsed young, progressive activists to run for city council seats. CHECC-endorsed candidates benefited its members' campaign organizational talents, financial resources, and youthful energy. The two CHECC-endorsed candidates, Tim Hill and Phyllis Lamphere, won seats to the city council that fall.

After its success in the 1967 municipal elections, CHECC's members voted to remain in business and formalize their association. It held political seminars and testified on council-related matters. The organization, however, nearly died after the 1969 municipal elections, in which two of three CHECC-endorsed city council candidates were defeated. Many young Republican members pulled out of the organization and membership dropped to about ten.

In 1970, CHECC was reborn under the leadership of another young lawyer, John Hempelmann. CHECC sought to play a greater role in political and government reform matters beyond the campaign season. In the wake of questionable campaign contributions to two city council members, it called for the establishment of an ethics committee. It also supported reform of the city's licensing procedures. CHECC continued to endorse candidates, including a slate of candidates for the Freeholder Board elections in 1974. Increasingly, CHECC members themselves began to seek public office.

By 1977, there was growing sentiment that CHECC on Seattle City Government, as the group was now called, had outlived its original purposes. They had succeeded in changing the face of the Seattle City Council. Moreover, its membership had changed. The young lawyers with their focus on downtown politics were gone. In their place were neighborhood activists with little money to pump into campaign activities. A motion to disband, however, failed to pass, leading to the resignation of the chairman, vice-chairman, and treasurer. The new leadership recast CHECC's role as a "relay center of documented research on vital issues." CHECC continued to exist into the 1980s, although it never regained the prestige or influence of its early days.

Content Description

Notes, clippings, correspondence, articles of association, histories, reports, proposals, position papers, research, financial documents, interviews, ephemera and other documents relating to an organization working against government corruption and for the disclosure of campaign contributions.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Organized into 3 accessions.

Accession No. 4326-001, Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1967-1976

Accession No. 4362-002, Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1970-1971

Accession No. 4362-003, Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1960-2009

Detailed Description of the Collection

Accession No. 4326-001: Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1967-1976

3.42 cubic feet (4 boxes)

Scope and Content: The records contain minutes, correspondence, campaign expense reports, resumes, financial records, reports, candidate questionnaires, committee files, ballots, membership records, and clippings.

The collection documents CHECC's efforts to achieve government reform through its candidate endorsements and watchdog activities. The records are particularly relevant to the study of Seattle civic and political life in the early 1970s. Materials related to issues in which CHECC involved itself during that period, including campaign finance and licensing reform, are located primarily in the Subject Series and CHECC Committees Subgroups. The collection also contains materials related to the effort to revise Seattle's city charter. Activities from CHECC's earliest years, when it was less formally organized, are not well documented.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Pat Solon in 1991.

Processing Info: The records were processed in 1999.

Separated Material: Issues of CHECC's newsletter, *CHECC Out*, were transferred to the serials collection in the division.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Organizational Records		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/1	4326-001 Articles of Association	1971-1972
General Correspondence		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/2-6	4326-001 Miscellaneous	1969-1975
1/7	4326-001 Re: Campaign '71	1971
1/8-9	4326-001 Seattle City Council	1971-1974
1/10	4326-001 Seattle Community Development Department	1973

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/11	4326-001 Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman	1970-1974
Minutes		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/12	4326-001 Endorsement Meetings	1971
1/13	4326-001 Executive Board	1970-1973
1/14	4326-001 Membership Meetings	1970-1974
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/15	4326-001 Ballots	1971-1974, n.d.
Campaign Expense Reports		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/16-19	4326-001 Miscellaneous	1967-1971
1/20	4326-001 Chapman, Bruce K.	1971
1/21	4326-001 CHECC	1967-1972
1/22	4326-001 Chesterfield, Bob	1971
1/23	4326-001 Gordon, William	1971
1/24	4326-001 Hill, Timothy H.	1971
1/25	4326-001 Kimbrough, Jim	1971
1/26	4326-001 Lamphere, Phyllis	1971
1/27	4326-001 McCrackin, Jodie	1971
1/28	4326-001 Miller, John	1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/29	4326-001 Rochester, Junius	1971
1/30	4326-001 Seefeld, Bill	1971
1/31	4326-001 Smith, Sam	1971
Reports		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/32	4326-001 Miscellaneous	1974, n.d.
1/33	4326-001 CHECC Public Disclosure Commission C-4 Filing Form	1975-1976
Conferences and Conventions		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/1	4326-001 CHECC "Give a Damn" Conference	1970
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/2	4326-001 Financial Records	1971, 1975
2/3	4326-001 Membership	1970-1974, n.d.
2/4	4326-001 Membership Data	1974
2/5	4326-001 [number not used]	
2/6	4326-001 News Releases	1971-1974
Notes		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/7	4326-001 Miscellaneous	1971, n.d.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/8	4326-001 Bradburn, Pamela	1974
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/9	4326-001 Ordinances	1971, 1975, n.d.
2/10	4326-001 Position Papers	1970-1972
Questionnaires		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/11	4326-001 Candidate Evaluation	1971
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/12	4326-001 Speeches and Writings	1971-1974
2/13	4326-001 Statements	1971, 1974
Subject Series		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
2/14-16	4326-001 Campaign Expense Reporting Act	1969-1970
2/17	4326-001 Campaign '71 Fair Campaign Practices Pledge	1971
2/18	4326-001 Campaign Finance Disclosure	1970-1971
2/19	4326-001 Charter Review	1971
2/20	4326-001 CHECC Campaign '71 Fund	1971
2/21	4326-001 Coalition for Open Government	1971
2/22	4326-001 Committee and Taskforce Membership Rosters	n.d.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/23	4326-001 Corr, Eugene	1971
2/24	4326-001 Fair Campaign Practices	1970-1971
2/25	4326-001 Fort Lawton Park	1970
2/26	4326-001 King County Multi-Purpose Stadium	1972
2/27	4326-001 Kleig Lite Kapers (Party)	1971
2/28	4326-001 Lawton Neighborhood Council Meeting	1968-1970
2/29	4326-001 Municipal Court Reform	1972
2/30	4326-001 Ordinance / Fair Campaign Practices	1973, n.d.
3/1	4326-001 Pike Place Market	1971
3/2	4326-001 Revenue Sharing	1973
3/3	4326-001 Seattle 2000 Commission	1972-1973
3/4	4326-001 Seattle Center	1971
Seattle City Council		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/5	4326-001 Ethics Code	1971
3/6-7	4326-001 News Releases	1971-1974
3/8	4326-001 Reports: Housing Rehabilitation	1974
3/9-10	4326-001 Communications	1972-1973
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/11	4326-001 Seattle City Government	1971-1972

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/12	4326-001 Seattle City Light	1972-1973
3/13	4326-001 Sign Control Ordinance	1973
3/14	4326-001 Special Review Districts	1973
3/15	4326-001 West Seattle Freeway	1973-1974
3/16	4326-001 Woodland Park Zoo	1971
3/17	4326-001 VIP Volunteers	1974
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/18	4326-001 Miscellany	1971, 1975, n.d.
Invitations		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/19	4326-001 Mayor Neil Goldschmidt to speak	1974
Clippings		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/20	4326-001 Miscellaneous	1970-1974
3/21	4326-001 Campaign Finance Reform	1970-1971
3/22	4326-001 Charter Amendment no. 7	1971
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/23	4326-001 Ephemera	n.d.
Box/ Folder	Accession	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/24	4326-001 CHECC Campaign Practices Task Force	1970-1971
3/25	4326-001 CHECC Candidate Evaluation Committee	1971, n.d.
CHECC Consumer Protection and Licensing Task Force		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
3/26	4326-001 General Correspondence	1971-1972
3/27	4326-001 Minutes	1970-1971
3/28	4326-001 Court Paper: Crime of Conspiracy Against Governmental Entities	n.d.
3/29	4326-001 Lists	1971-1972, n.d.
3/30	4326-001 Notes: Information Sheet on Consumer Affairs	n.d.
3/31-32	4326-001 Ordinances	1972
3/33-34	4326-001 Reports	1970-71
4/1	4326-001 Speeches and Writings	1971, n.d.
4/2	4326-001 Clippings	1970-1972
4/3	4326-001 Subject Series: Ehlert Proposals	1970
Box/ Folder	Accession	
4/4	4326-001 CHECC Freeholders Ad Hoc Committee	1974, n.d.
4/5	4326-001 CHECC Governmental Organization Task Force	1971
4/6	4326-001 CHECC Urban Design and City Planning Committee	1972-1973
Citizen's Charter Review Committee (Seattle)		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/ Folder	Accession	
4/7	4326-001 General Correspondence	1970-1971
4/8	4326-001 Ballots	1971
4/9	4326-001 Speeches and Writings	1970-1971
4/10	4326-001 Clippings	1971
4/11	4326-001 Subject Series: Charter Reform of Finance Department	1970-1971
Seattle Freeholders Board		
Box/ Folder	Accession	
4/12	4326-001 General Correspondence	1973-1974
4/13	4326-001 Minutes	1974
4/14	4326-001 Lists	1974, n.d.
4/15	4326-001 Memoranda	1973-1974
4/16	4326-001 Candidate Questionnaires	1974
4/17	4326-001 Speeches and Writings	1974, n.d.

Accession No. 4362-002: Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1970-1971

2 vertical files

Arrangement: Arranged by type of material

Scope and Content: Two file folders of notes, clippings, correspondence and other documents relating to government corruption and disclosure of campaign contributions.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Donor: Roger Leeds, December 2013.

Processing Info: Processed by A. Demeter, January 2014.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Folder	Accession	
1	4362-002 Government corruption - Correspondence	1970-1971
2	4362-002 Government corruption - Notes	1970-1971

Accession No. 4362-003: Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC) records, 1960-2009

0.94 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Content: Articles of Association, histories, correspondence, news clippings, reports, proposals, position papers, research, financial documents, interviews, and a CHECC pin. Includes a manuscript by Peter LeSourd chronicling the founding of a Seattle political action committee, Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC), and details the impact of the organization on city affairs from 1967 to 1978. An abstract of the manuscript has been posted on Historylink.org.

Restrictions on Access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's copyrights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections.

Acquisition Info: Donor: Camden Hall [07/11/2018] Donor: Peter LeSourd [09/28/2017]

Processing Info: Peter LeSourd Papers/ Transformation of Seattle: CHECC's Role, 2008 (acc 5665-001) has been merged with this accession

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1/1	4362-003 Articles of Association, histories, and newsletter	1967-1969
1/2	4362-003 News clippings and copies of news clippings	1967-1970
1/3	4362-003 Correspondence	1967-1970
1/4	4362-003 Statements on Planning	1967
1/5	4362-003 Statement on Crime	1967
1/6	4362-003 The Path to Better Parks (proposal paper)	1967
1/7	4362-003 City Planning Subcommittee Recommendations	1967

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/8	4362-003 Report of Candidate Evaluation Committee	1967
1/9	4362-003 Proposal for a New City Charter	1967
1/10	4362-003 Recommendations of the Utility Undergrounding Subcommittee of the Issues Committee	1967
1/11	4362-003 Statement on Council Campaign Conduct	1967
1/12	4362-003 Planning Policy Report	circa 1967
1/13	4362-003 Statement on Pioneer Square Historical Ordinance	1969
1/14	4362-003 Statement on Proposed Household Tax-Subsidy for Seattle Transit System	1969
1/15	4362-003 The Seattle Parks System: Planning for Distinction (position paper)	1969
1/16	4362-003 Lake Union Issue (position paper)	1969
1/17	4362-003 A Zoning Administrator: Proposal for Zoning Reform in Seattle	1969
1/18	4362-003 Statement of Campaign Principles	1969
1/19	4362-003 Statement in Support of an Historic Preservation Ordinance	1969
1/20	4362-003 Phyllis Lamphere-First Two Years on Seattle City Council	1969
1/21	4362-003 Comparative Analysis of Planning Enabling Legislation	circa 1969
1/22	4362-003 Arts and the City (position paper)	1970
1/23	4362-003 Abuses of Municipal Campaign Finance Disclosure Laws and Suggested Revisions in the Law (position paper)	1970
1/24	4362-003 CHECC Projections	1970
Box		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	4362-003 "The Transformation of Seattle: CHECC's Role" by Peter LeSourd	2008
2	4362-003 CHECC pin	undated
2	4362-003 Manuscript draft feedback by Chris Bayley	2007
2	4362-003 Donation to the University of Washington	circa 2008
2	4362-003 Research	circa 1960-2007
2	4362-003 Fundraising	1967
2	4362-003 Endorsements	1967
2	4362-003 Membership	1967
2	4362-003 Press Releases	1967
2	4362-003 "CHECC: An Analysis of a Reform Group" by George Moore	1968
2	4362-003 News clippings	circa 1966-2009
2	4362-003 Interviews	2006-2008

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Campaign funds--Washington (State)--Seattle

City councils--Washington (State)--Seattle

Municipal government--Washington (State)--Seattle

Political campaigns--Law and legislation--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Hempelmann, John W

Corporate Names :

Choose an Effective City Council (Organization : Seattle, Wash.)--Archives

Seattle (Wash.). City Council

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

2002 (Last modified: 10/19/2018)



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