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## Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition Collection

1993-1995

1 box (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 512



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Established in 1995 to gain city-wide support for a domestic partnership ordinance, the Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition's campaign included fundraising and neighborhood canvassing. Their early efforts succeeded, and in May 1995, the Northampton City Council passed an ordinance recognizing domestic partnerships in the city allowing people of either gender to register as a couple and entitling them to visitation and child care rights in schools, jails, and health care facilities. After a summer of campaigning on both sides, the measure failed by fewer than one hundred votes.

Consisting chiefly of newspaper clippings covering both sides of the debate over Northampton's domestic partnership ordinance,

this collection includes perspectives extending from Northampton and Boston to Washington D.C. Among the publications represented are *The Catholic Monitor*, *The Washington Blade*, and *Boston Magazine*.

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## Background on Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition

Established in 1995 to gain city-wide support for a domestic partnership ordinance, the Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition's campaign included fundraising and neighborhood canvassing. Their early efforts succeeded, and in May 1995, the Northampton City Council passed an ordinance recognizing domestic partnerships in the city. The measure allowed people of either gender to register as a couple and entitled them to visitation and child care rights in schools, jails, and health care facilities.

Soon after the ordinance was passed, however, a group of residents opposed to the measure -- later organized as Northampton for Traditional Values -- launched a petition drive to overturn the ordinance and place a referendum before the voters during the November election. Although they succeeded in getting on the ballot, the initiative failed, losing by fewer than a hundred votes.

## Scope of collection

Consisting chiefly of newspaper clippings covering both sides of the debate over Northampton's domestic partnership ordinance, this collection includes perspectives extending from Northampton and Boston to Washington D.C. Among the publications represented are *The Catholic Monitor*, *The Washington Blade*, and *Boston Magazine*.

Also included in the collection are documents that the Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition used during their city-wide campaign: maps, a list of locations of yard signs, a list of the registered voters from the second district of Northampton, and a copy of the city ordinance that was passed on May 18, 1995.

# Inventory

Domestic Partnership Ordinance (Northampton, Mass.)

1995

Box 1: 1

List: lawn sign locations

circa 1995

Box 1: 2

Maps

circa 1995

Box 1: 3

Newsclippings

1993-1995

Box 1: 4

Newsclippings

1995

Box 1: 5

Newsclippings

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Box 1: 6

Newsclippings

1995

Box 1: 7

Newsclippings

1995

Box 1: 8

Newsclippings

1995

Box 1: 9

Newsclippings: advertisements

1995

Box 1: 10

Newsclippings: letters to the editor

1995

Box 1: 11

Newsclippings: letters to the editor

1995

Box 1: 12

Northampton voter register

1993

Box 1: 13

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

### Processing Information

Processed by Maradith A. Wilson, 2007

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

Please use the following format when citing materials from this collection:

Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition Collection (MS 512). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

## Subjects

Domestic partner benefits--Law and legislation--Massachusetts.

Gay couples--Legal status, laws, etc.--Massachusetts.

Lesbian couples--Legal status, laws, etc.--Massachusetts.

Northampton (Mass.)--Politics and government.

Northampton (Mass.)--Social life and customs.

Same-sex marriage--Massachusetts.

## Contributors

Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition **[main entry]**

Northampton Domestic Partnership Coalition.

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