

# House Democratic Caucus Records

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79018242>

Prepared by Joseph K. Brooks with the assistance of Marjorie L. Torney

## Collection Summary

**Title:** House Democratic Caucus Records

**Span Dates:** 1913-1999

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1969-1994)

**ID No.:** MSS18242

**Creator:** House Democratic Caucus (U.S.)

**Extent:** 20,000 items ; 78 containers ; 31.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Organization of Democratic members of the United States House of Representatives; established in 1796. The records include minutes of meetings, transcripts of meetings and hearings, office files, correspondence, legislation, caucus and House rules, reports, handbooks, printed matter, and other records documenting the proceedings of the caucus and its efforts to shape national public policy.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Fazio, Victor H. (Victor Herbert), 1942- --Correspondence.

Gephardt, Richard A. (Richard Andrew), 1941- --Correspondence.

Hoyer, Steny H. (Steny Hamilton), 1939- --Correspondence.

Long, Gillis William, 1923-1985--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)

House Democratic Caucus (U.S.)

House Democratic Caucus (U.S.). Committee on Organization, Study, and Review.

House Democratic Caucus (U.S.). Committee on Party Effectiveness.

United States. Congress. House.

### Places

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The records of the House Democratic Caucus were given to the Library of Congress by the caucus in 1964 and 2001.

### Processing History

Records of the House Democratic Caucus were first arranged circa 1964. Additional records were received in 2001, and both accessions were combined and processed in 2002.

### Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the House Democratic Caucus in these records and in other collections of records in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

### Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Records of the House Democratic Caucus, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

## Scope and Content Note

The records of the House Democratic Caucus span the years 1913-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1969 to 1994. The caucus, which first met in 1796, is an arm of the Democratic party comprising party members serving as elected or appointed members of the United States House of Representatives. It promulgates House and caucus rules, determines members' committee assignments, and serves as the means by which the party organizes the House and selects the speaker and committee chairmen when the Democrats are in the majority. The records are organized in a [Congressses](#) and a [Miscellany](#) series.

The [Congressses](#) series documents the 64th through 106th Congresses, spanning the period 1913-1999, though there are gaps and fewer records at the beginning and end of the span. The meetings of the earlier caucuses through the 92d Congress are typically represented by only a journal, a short outline of the proceedings that reported speeches and debates with little detail. Caucus meetings of the 93d through 102d Congresses are usually documented with full transcripts as well as with journals. Correspondents in the Congressses series include caucus chairmen Victor H. Fazio, Richard A. Gephardt, Steny H. Hoyer, and Gillis William Long.

The [Miscellany](#) series mainly documents the work of two committees of the caucus, the Committee on Organization, Study, and Review and the Committee on Party Effectiveness. The Committee on Organization, Study and Review promulgates and amends caucus rules and the procedural rules of the House of Representatives when the Democrats are in the majority. The caucus formulates broad party policy on a number of public issues, such as health care reform and the Strategic Defense Initiative, through task forces of the Committee on Party Effectiveness. Included in the history file of the Miscellany series are chronologies and agendas of caucus meetings from the 1960s through the 1990s and brief histories of the caucus and the Committee on Organization, Study and Review and Committee on Party Effectiveness.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Congressses, 1913-1999](#)
- [Miscellany, 1981-1996](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

BOX 1-54

*Series*

**Congresses, 1913-1999**

Minutes and transcripts of meetings, correspondence, office files, subject files, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged by Congress and therein alphabetically by type of material or topical groupings.

BOX 55-78

**Miscellany, 1981-1996**

Office files, legislation, caucus rules, handbooks, topical files, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Arranged by organization or topic.

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