

THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Archives



PA  
HOUSE  
ARCHIVES

## REPRESENTING THE PAST

Winter 2023

### House History Online: Digital Exhibits and YouTube Channel

The House Archives enjoys showing off our latest exhibits and having researchers use committee records, personal papers, photographs, and our many other resources. However, we realize not everyone can easily travel to Harrisburg. In an effort to make our collections more accessible, we have two new and exciting ways to share content with the public!

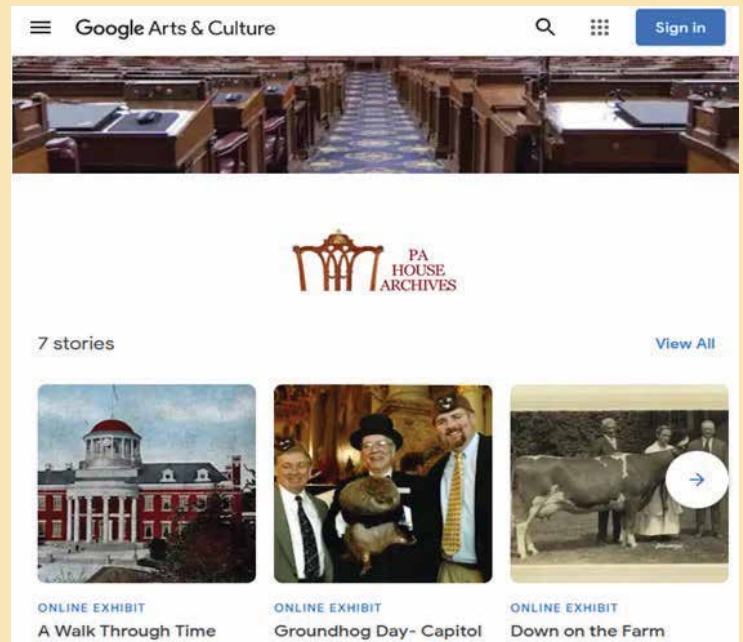
#### Digital Exhibits with Google Arts and Culture

The House Archives has partnered with Google Arts and Culture to provide digital exhibits! This has become a great way to showcase our in-person exhibits online for people who are not able to visit the Capitol. Our new partnership is also allowing us to show brand-new content for people across the country to see. Current features include online exclusives on Groundhog Day and Agriculture in Pennsylvania, as well as our past exhibit on Technology in the House.

In these exhibits, you will see lawmakers both hard at work in the Capitol and having fun in candid moments. Included are photographs, documents, and even audio files from our Oral History Project. These materials are crafted to highlight significant elements of Pennsylvania's past and present, as well as our rich cultural heritage.

Digital exhibits are available on our website at <https://archives.house.state.pa.us/> or simply scan the QR code to the left. New content is added regularly, so be sure to check back often to see the many exciting items the House Archives has to share!

SCAN ME



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# Digital Exhibits and YouTube Channel continued

## House Archives YouTube Channel

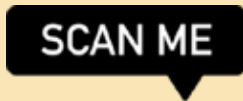
The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives is now on YouTube! This platform will help us share preservation tips, behind the scenes tours, unique historical clips, and oral history interviews.

Viewers can see how the House Archives cares for the many different kinds of items in our collections. From vintage film reels to bobbleheads — learn how to use a few simple materials and tools to keep valuable items clean, safe, and in top condition for years to come.

Perhaps the most exciting feature on the platform is the House Archives Oral History interviews. Hear the voices of the Members themselves tell their stories about what brought them to Harrisburg, their struggles and successes, and many stories about the relationships they formed while in office.



Use the code below to visit our YouTube Channel!



*Above: Throwback interview with Representative Kate Harper and the House Archives about caring for family photographs and special documents.*



*Above: Late Representative Harold James shares a story about Representative Alphonso Deal who sadly died in office in 1987.*

## Black History Month Exclusive!



**Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus  
Oral History Project**

Over the last year, the House Archives interviewed members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus as well as House Members of diverse cultural backgrounds. We asked current and former Members to share their stories of how the PLBC impacted their House service, anecdotes of predecessors, and experiences as people of color in the House. With over 20 interviews completed, the House Archives is happy to release a brand-new video compiling clips of these interviews to share the story of the PLBC. The video can be found on the House Archives' YouTube Channel.



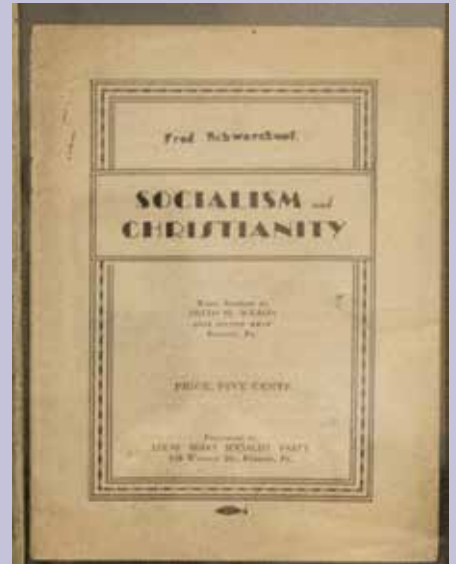
# New Exhibit: 100 Years of Women: Women of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1923-2022

The House Archives is excited to announce our new exhibit featuring women from across the Commonwealth who served in the House of Representatives! Visit the 6th floor of the Irvis Office Building to learn about the first eight women elected to the House in 1921, the first women of color to serve, and more about women's suffrage movements in Pennsylvania.



Above: Campaign advertisement and photograph of Representative Anna Brancato

— courtesy of Albert L. Brancato, nephew



Above: Pamphlet of radio address by Representative Lilith Wilson, the only female elected Socialist in Pennsylvania history

Left: Campaign ribbon and pamphlet on child abuse from the papers of Representative Connie Maine



Left: Representative Carmel Sirianni's license plate and photographs and pin from Representative Kathy Manderino's papers

Right: 1967 issue of Ebony Magazine featuring Black women lawmakers, including three Pennsylvania House Members



## Save the Date: Retired Members Luncheon!

An indoor luncheon for all retired Members of the House is scheduled for June 7th at the West Shore Country Club in Camp Hill. Invitations will be sent out in April with more information on how to RSVP and pay. House Archives staff will be in attendance, so be sure to bring any donations that you would like to see in our collections. The Archives always welcomes campaign materials, photographs, scrapbooks, newsletters, media, legislative research materials, and any other items related to the PA House of Representatives! See you then!

lpo.km.0223

## Exciting Loans and Collaborations!

The passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, and the subsequent election of the first eight women to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1921, was the culmination of a decades-long effort. While the House Archives has many items related to female Members of the House, it does not have many general items related to the suffrage movement. In order to better tell the story of how women gained their place in Pennsylvania’s government, the Archives reached out to two others institutions with valuable collections related to women’s suffrage.

The Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University provided two outfits — one from the early 1900s and another from the late 1910s. These beautiful garments reflect the emergence of the “new woman” who began to seek opportunities outside the home including having a voice in government.

The Madlyn L. Hanes Library, Archives and Special Collections at Penn State Harrisburg also provided several unique pieces from both pro-and anti-suffrage efforts. Sheet music, valentines, playing cards, and many pins worn by those on both sides of the debate illustrate how the women’s suffrage movement permeated American life.



*Below: These pins illustrate the opposing views on women gaining the right to vote. The pin in the bottom left depicts the common argument that if women vote and have lives outside the home, the traditional family unit could fall apart.*



*These suffragette-era outfits, on loan from the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University, show the evolution of fashion during the suffragette movement. Above: an early look complete with a shirtwaist (blouse c. 1903), skirt with petticoats, gloves, and bonnet gave way to a more simple tailored two piece suit (c. 1919).*