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North Carolina Collection

Durham Voters Alliance Records

Title:	Durham Voters Alliance Records
Inclusive Dates:	1972-2003
Extent of Materials:	6 Hollinger boxes, 3 linear feet
Location:	NC 2nd floor storage room, Shelf 52
Date of Accession:	2014
Donor:	Julia Borbely-Brown
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	Durham Voters Alliance was a political advocacy organization in Durham for 30 years, from 1972 to 2002.
Processor:	Kristen Merryman
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Citizens' associations — North Carolina — Durham.
	Political activists — North Carolina — Durham.
	Political participation — North Carolina — Durham.
	Community life — North Carolina — Durham.
Abstract:	This collection contains correspondence among the members of the Durham Voter's Alliance (DVA), DVA newsletters, and assorted Durham election materials from 1972 through 2002. Most of the correspondence is with Julia Borbely-Brown, the secretary for the Durham Voters Alliance (DVA), and focuses on general DVA business. Correspondents include North Carolina politicians such as Jim Hunt and Jesse Helms and Durham politicians such as William Bell, Wib Gulley, Howard Clement, Becky Heron, Ellen Reckhow, and Eugene Brown. Other correspondence is with local activists such as Eno River Association founder Margaret Nygard. The organization often worked in conjunction with other Durham political groups such as Durham People's Alliance, Friends of Durham, and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. A particular focus of DVA was the merger of the city and county schools, which members actively supported from the organization's creation and were instrumental in convincing others in the community, including William "Bill" Bell, who was chairman of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, to support. A number of materials in the Issues series relate to the school merger effort. Newsletters and promotional material from the Durham People's Alliance, Friends of Durham, and the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People are found throughout the collection. Newspaper clippings from the Durham Herald-Sun and Raleigh's News and Observer are also found in the collection, specifically on issues in which the DVA was involved.
Related Materials:	Durham People's Alliance Papers
Restrictions:	This collection is open for research.
	The Durham Voters Alliance (DVA) Records are the organizational records of the Durham Voter's Alliance, which describes itself as having "advocated and supported progressive positions on political issues. In local affairs a central concern of the DVA was promoting the interests of working people and the poor." The organization was founded in 1972, following the failed presidential run of

Biographical/Historical Note:	<p>George McGovern, when the political group "People for McGovern" reconstituted itself as the DVA. After being active for 30 years, the group dissolved in 2002. Durham Voter's Alliance was an independent political organization, not affiliated with any particular political party, but often worked with other political groups in Durham such as the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, the People's Alliance, the Sierra Club, and the Friends of Durham to support candidates and initiatives. Their focus was primarily on local politics, both city and county, with some interest in state level politics. The organization was particularly active in the conversation in Durham about schools, the environment, and the merging of city and county schools.</p> <p>The Durham Voters Alliance made city-county school merger one of its goals when it was founded in 1973. Many individuals who were part of the DVA had been working on merger for years before the organization formed. A constant voice for the merger, the organization sponsored public meetings and did research that supported the need for the schools to change how they operated. In 1987 and 1988, DVA began a concerted push that was the catalyst for the Merger Issue Task Force, which the county formed in 1988. DVA had two official members on the task force, and several other members were representatives from other groups. In order to achieve their end goal of merger, DVA built alliances across the aisle with the Durham Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of Durham and brought politicians such as William "Bill" Bell on board in support.</p>
Organization of Collection:	The collection is organized into two series: (1) Meeting minutes and general correspondence and (2) Issues. The first series is organized chronologically and the second series is organized alphabetically by topic name.
Container List	
Meeting minutes and general correspondence	As the DVA primarily focused on elections, the following folders contain election ephemera from that particular year in addition to correspondence and meeting minutes.
Box 1	1972-1975, Includes initial meetings to form the Durham Voters' Alliance from People for McGovern.
	1976
	1977
	1978, Includes correspondence on opposition to the East-West Expressway extension.
	1979, Includes correspondence and publicity materials on opposition to the East-West Expressway extension.
	1980
	1981, Includes materials related to the conference "Organizing for the 80's."
	1982
	1983
	1984
	1985
Box 2	1986, Includes discussion of support for the 1986 bond referendum on water and sewer extension.
	1987
	1988, Includes photographs from the 15th anniversary party for DVA.
	1989
	1990, Includes materials on the Durham Bulls Athletic Park bond referendum and the 9 for the 90s referendum.

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Box 3	1991, Includes correspondence on the Durham city-county schools merger.
	1992
	1993
	1994
	1995
	1996
	1997
	1998
Box 4	1999
	2000
	2001
	2002
	Dissolving Durham Voters Alliance, 2002-2003
	Newsletters, 1973-1989
	Newsletters, 1990-2002
	Issues
Box 5	City council reduction, 1998
	Durham Economic Development Forum, 1998
	Court case: Durham Voters Alliance, North Carolina People's Alliance, Julia Borbely-Brown vs. Ruth A. Shaw, Chairman of the Durham County Board of Elections, 1983-1988
	Growth and development in Durham, 1980-1985
	Healthcare forum, 2001, Includes a copy of Health Needs and Resources in Durham County, North Carolina: A Technical Report to the Health Planning Committee of Durham Health Partners, published October 5, 2000
	Museum of Life and Science, 1979
	Prepared food tax panel, 2001
	Schools, Durham High School closure, 1990-1994
	Schools, pre-merger, 1977-1990
Box 6	Schools, merger task force, 1990-1991
	Schools, post-merger, 1993-1994
	Tax avoidance, 1978

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	Treyburn, 1986
	Watershed Protection Ordinance, 1984-1987
	The West Durham Traffic Problem--An Analysis and Recommended Solution, 1980

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