



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0071

Civic Research Institute Records

1920-ca. 1966

15 cubic feet (700 Folders); oversize panoramic photograph

*Working papers for the Institute, whose purpose was to study problems in the Kansas City area with regard to politics, health, police, city budgets, charters, and state reorganization, independent of influences of local governments. The work involved preparing in-depth studies of the specific problem, its causes and possible solutions. These records contain much of the raw data collected during the research process.*

### HISTORY

The Civic Research Institute was initially founded in September 1920, by Henry D. Faxon, W.B. Henderson, Howard McCutcheon and Walter Matscheck. The Name originally adopted by these men was The Public Service Institute of Kansas City.

The plan for a research organization was originally found within the Kansas City Board of Public Welfare which contained a Research Bureau. *The Politics of Reform*, by A. Theodore Brown, cites a 1913 publication of this Research Bureau entitled *Social Prospectus of Kansas City, Missouri*. The *Prospectus* analyzed the composition of the city's population by economic level, occupation, education, nationality, race and location of residence. Their analysis of the North-End, with comments on resulting problems and their solutions, may be called a prototype for future Civic Research Institute studies.

The establishment of the Public Service Institute as a private bureau eliminated governmental control or manipulation of research data. This became a most important factor as the Pendergast machine assumed power over city and county governments.

By October 1920, a Board of Trustees had been selected for the Institute. W.B. Henderson served as the first Chairman and Walter Matscheck was the first

Director of the Institute. Initial funding for the Institute was provided by William Volker. Later funding was received from private and civic foundations, donation and individual subscriptions.

The purpose of the Institute was the study of problems in the Kansas City area with regard to politics, health, police, city budgets, charters and state reorganization. The work involved preparing in-depth studies of the specific problem, its causes and possible solutions. Extensive surveys were undertaken by the Institute as a check on city assessments and as a means of anticipating future problems.

In the fall of 1931 the name of the Institute was officially changed to The Civic Research Institute. The Institute continued to be an active research facility into the 1960's when other local research agencies and foundations became active.

#### PROVENANCE:

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#### PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Civic Research Institute Records (K0071)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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#### DESCRIPTION:

These papers cover the period 1920-ca. 1965. There is a lack of material for the late 1940's through 1960. Information on a wide range of civic problems is included in the papers. As these are the working papers for the Institute, much of

the raw data collected during the research process is available for study. Major research topics include: the Kansas City Police Department; Kansas City Charters; Health Surveys; Tax Reassessment studies; Public Opinion Polls; and Jackson County Organization. Located within the Collection are also files dealing with Civic Research Institute finances which include both contributions and expenditures. The collection is arranged approximately in the same filing format that the Institute used.

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- Folder 13. Minutes of Board of Trustees of the Public Service Institute  
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- Folder 19. Kansas City Public Service Institute Filing System, 1923
- Folder 20. Civic Research Institute Fifteen Year Report of Progress
- Folder 21. Kansas City Public Service Institute *News Notes*  
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- Folder 22. Kansas City Public Service Institute *News Notes*  
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- Folder 23. Civic Research Progress Reports ca. 1930's
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- Folder 25. Civic Research Institute Newsletters  
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- Folder 453. New Administration – Newsclippings ca. 1938-1941
- Folder 454. Old Administration – Newsclippings, ca. 1938-1941

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- Folder 462. Water Plans – Newsclippings, ca. 1938-1941
- Folder 463. Water, Gas and Electric (1938)  
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- Folder 473. Kansas City – Fire and Police Pensions  
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- Folder 483. Kansas City Police Survey, 1929  
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- Folder 484. Kansas City Police Survey, ca. 1929  
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- Folder 485. Kansas City Police Survey, 1963  
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- Folder 490. Kansas City Fire Department  
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- Folder 496. Legislative Government, State and County, 1930-1932
- Folder 497. Drafts of Amendments and Laws  
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- Folder 498. State and County Constitutional Laws  
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Folder 509. Hospital Statistics, 1930

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Folder 511. Hospital #2, St. Joseph  
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- Folder 513. Kansas City – Health and Hospitals  
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- Folder 529. “A New Charter for Kansas City? What Shall It Be?” June 1921

- Folder 530. "City Finance Facts," June 1921  
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- Folder 532. "Kansas City's Sinking Funds: Present Condition and Effect of Proposed Bond Issues on the Tax Rate for Debt Purposes," September 1921  
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Folder 536. "Kansas City Charters," December 1921  
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- Folder 550. "Memorandum to the Finance Committee of the Bond Advisory Council," December 1925  
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- Folder 552. "Consolidated Statement of City Payroll as of November 30, 1925," January 1926
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- Folder 554. "Discussion of the City Manager's Statement of the City Deficit at April 30, 1926"
- Folder 555. "Report of the Kansas City Public Service Institute for the Year 1927"
- Folder 556. "Comments on the Proposed Police Pension System," February 1927
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- Folder 565. "Summary – General County Welfare and the County Court," March 1928
- Folder 566. "Expenditures from the Fire and Hospital Bond Funds," May 1928
- Folder 567. "Report on a General Survey of the Financial Administration of the Missouri Reformatory, Boonville, Missouri," October 1928

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- Folder 576. "National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement," 1931
- Folder 577. "Uniform Crime Classification of the Police Department, Kansas City, Missouri," 1931
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- Folder 580. "Climbing the Hill of Good Government: Ten Years of Progress in Government, Ten Years of Research Service, Ten Years from Now," May 1931
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- Folder 582. "Report on Investigation of the City Manager's Emergency Fund for the Period from Oct 12, 1931 to April 18, 1939"
- Folder 583. "Police Progress: What Happened Since the Police Survey in March 1929," October 28, 1931
- Folder 584. "Condemnation Procedure in Kansas City," November 1931
- Folder 585. "Methods of Reducing the Cost of Government," January 1932
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- Folder 587. "Special Assessment Procedure in Kansas City," January 1932

Folder 588. "Tax Rate Estimates for Ten-Year Bonds," January 1932

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Folder 589. "Inter-Chamber Health Conservation Contest Report of Kansas City, Missouri for 1931," February 1932

Folder 590. "Welfare (Poor Relief) Activities of Wyandotte County, Kansas," March 21, 1932

Folder 591. "Jackson County Offices: Payroll and Expenses," May 1932

Folder 592. "Consolidation of City and County Tax Assessments and Collections," July 1932

Folder 593. "Plan for the Reorganization of Tax Assessment and Collection Procedure in Kansas City and Jackson County," August 1932

Folder 594. "Revised Draft of Bill for Reorganization of County Government," August 1932

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Folder 596. "Partial Report on City Bond Funds," October 1932

Folder 597. "A Proposed Bill Providing for the Reorganization of the Government of Jackson County, Missouri," December 1, 1932

Folder 598. "A Bill to Reorganize Assessment and Taxation Procedure of Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri," January 1933

Folder 599. "Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce Advertising Media," January 1933-September 1936

Folder 600. "Expenditures From Ten-Year Plan Bond Funds," January 1933

Folder 601. "Trends in City Finance in Kansas City, Missouri," March 1933

Folder 602. "Trends in School Finance – School District of Kansas City, Missouri," April 1933

Folder 603. "City, School and County Debt Requirements and Probable Tax Rates Next Ten Years," June 1933

Folder 604. "Seven Years of Council-Manager Government in Kansas City," July 1933

Folder 605. "Charts on Local Government Finance," September 1933

Folder 606. "Trends in County Finance, Jackson County, Missouri," September 1933

Folder 607. "Trends in County Finance, Jackson County, Missouri," September 1933

Folder 608. "Fire Insurance of the Kansas City School District" 1934

- Folder 609. "Health Conservation Contest Report of Kansas City, Missouri for 1933," February 1934
- Folder 610. "The Tax Problem in Missouri," March 1934
- Folder 611. "Registration and Voting in Kansas City," July 1934
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- Folder 617. "Kansas City Facts Concerning the City and Its Supporting Area," 1936
- Folder 618. "The Extent of Low Wages and Long Hours in the Railroad Industry," November 1936
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- Folder 621. "Directory Social Welfare Agencies in Kansas City, 1939"
- Folder 622. "Investigation of and Report on Improvements Paid for From Ten-Year Plan Bond Fund Kansas City, Missouri," 1939
- Folder 623. "Bond Funds Report on Examination of Accounts from Inception of Ten-Year Plan to April 30, 1939"
- Folder 624. "General Fund Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939"
- Folder 625. "General Sinking Fund, Water Sinking Fund, Bond Interest Fund, Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939"
- Folder 626. "Park Department Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939"
- Folder 627. "Report on Examination of Tax Assessments, Abatements, and Collections, for the Year Ended April 30, 1939"
- Folder 628. "Water Department Report on Examination of Accounts for the Year Ended April 30, 1939"

- Folder 629. "Report on Budgets, Appropriation Ordinances, and Appropriation Ledgers" September 13, 1939
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- Folder 632. "Insurance Rates in Kansas City Report: Insurance Practices," November 1, 1939
- Folder 633. "Statistics for Public School Systems," 1940
- Folder 634. "Report on Investigation of Salary and Wage Claims and Survey of Personnel," January 5, 1940

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- Folder 635. "Report on a Study of the School System of Kansas City, Missouri," January 10, 1940
- Folder 636. "Measuring the Efficiency of Government Operation and Utilizing Unit Costs" by Griffenhagen and Associates, June 17, 1940
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- Folder 642. "List of Organizations and Persons Represented at the Urban-Rural Conference," May 23, 1941
- Folder 643. "Directory of Local Civic Organizations 1941," June 1941
- Folder 644. "National Defense Repairs, Maintenance and Supplies: Amendment No.1 to Preference Rating Order No.P-22 Amended," November 1941
- Folder 645. "A Report on the Griffenhagen Survey by the Kansas City, Missouri Public School District," 1942
- Folder 646. "Public Assistance in Jackson County," 1942

- Folder 647. "Teacher Salaries," January 1942
- Folder 648. "Employment Trends in Greater Kansas City," December 1942, July, August 1946
- Folder 649. "Kansas City Fire Department: Facing the Future," April 1943
- Folder 650. "City Problems," July 9, 1943, October 1, 1943
- Folder 651. "Argentina: Part I Mining and Manufacturing," September 1943
- Folder 652. "For the Nation's Security," Fall 1943
- Folder 653. "El Salvador: Part I Mining and Manufacturing," October 1943
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- Folder 656. "Survey of the Cooperative Movement in the American Republics," May 1944
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- Folder 659. "Summary of Economic Information Australia," 1945-1946
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- Folder 661. "Summary of Economic Information Chili," 1945-1946
- Folder 662. "Summary of Economic Information Colombia," 1945-1946
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- Folder 666. "Foreign Trade in a Stable Postwar World," May 23, 1945
- Folder 667. "Resumption of United States Trade with the Far East," December 1945
- Folder 668. "Guiding the Growth of the Metropolitan Area," 1947
- Folder 669. "An Outline of a Program for Citizen Action," no date  
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- Folder 670. "Flood Protection for the Kansas Citys," May 1947



- Folder 671. "The St. Louis Police Department – A Resurvey," February 1948
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- Folder 673. "Report on Selected Aspects of the November 8, 1960 General Election (Kansas City, Missouri)," December 7, 1960
- Folder 674. "Presidents and Past Presidents General Assembly of Greater Kansas City, 1961-1963"
- Folder 675. "Report on Survey Findings: Attitudes Toward the Community," January 13, 1961
- Folder 676. "Report on Survey Findings: Attitudes Toward the Role of Local Government, Taxes and Services," January 24, 1961
- Folder 677. "Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of Civic Research Institute Fund for the Period from August 8 to December 31, 1960, Inclusive and Accounts" Opinion," January 31, 1961
- Folder 678. "Report on Survey Findings: Voter Preferences for City Councilman and City Manager," February 1, 1961
- Folder 679. "Report on Survey Findings: The Registered Voter," February 17, 1961
- Folder 680. "Report on Survey Findings: Summary Review, Insights, and Challenges," March 22, 1961
- Folder 681. "Voter Opinion Survey: Consideration of Home Rule with Respect to Senate Bill #82," May 4, 1961
- Folder 682. "City Government as a Career: 1961 Institute Essay Competition Awards," May 31, 1961
- Folder 683. "Ethical Conduct: A Model Code of Local Government," August 1, 1961
- Folder 684. "Directory of Government Official," September 1961
- Folder 685. "Councilman Redistricting Report," February, March 1962; February 1963
- Folder 686. "Institute for Community Studies with Supplement," 1966  
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- Folder 687. "Mental Health in the Community: A Follow-up Study of Former Mental Patients," August 1967
- Folder 688. *The Government of Jackson County, Missouri: Potential, Report II*  
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- Folder 692. Photo Statting Study (1925-1927)  
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- Folder 693. Photo Statting Study (1928-1940)  
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- Folder 694. Photo Statting Study (1928-1940)  
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- Folder 695. Miscellaneous Photographs  
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- Folder 696. Motion Pictures  
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- Folder 697. Civic Research Institute – Newsclippings, ca. 1938-1941
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- Folder 699. Miscellaneous Newsclippings, October, December, 1960; April  
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