H. Edward Flentje Papers

Collection Summary

Title: H. Edward Flentje Papers
Call Number: MS 2016-06
Size: 17 linear feet (17 boxes)
Acquisition: Donated by Dr. Ed Flentje, 2007 and 2014
Processed by: JZ, 2-2016
Restrictions: Box 17

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Content Note

This collection mainly documents the career of Dr. H. Edward Flentje in higher education and in Kansas state government. Some records also provide information on Wichita politics from the late 19th through the early 21st centuries, and water issues affecting local and state economic and public policies. Record types include academic transcripts and papers, personal and professional correspondence, government reports, speeches and conference materials, photographs, news clippings, public opinion poll research, biographical reports, subject files, and ephemera. Inclusive dates range from 1917 to 2014, with bulk dates being between 1964 and 1991.

Biography

Dr. Henry Edward “Ed” Flentje was born on August 26, 1942 in Anthony, Kansas. He earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia State University) in 1964, a master’s degree in government from George Washington University the following year, and a doctorate in political science from the University of Kansas in 1970. Dr. Flentje began his academic career in 1969 as a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and held teaching positions at Malcolm X College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. In August 1975 he joined the cabinet of Kansas Governor Robert Bennett, becoming the Director of State Planning and Research.
In 1979 Dr. Flentje accepted a position at Wichita State University as an associate professor, eventually becoming Director of the Hugo Wall School and Center for Public Affairs from 1999 to 2008. He also served in various administrative capacities for the State of Kansas, including Secretary of Administration for Governor Mike Hayden in 1987-1988. More recently, Dr. Flentje was appointed interim city manager for Wichita in 2008 and interim president of Emporia State University in 2011. He became Professor Emeritus at WSU in 2014.

### Series Listing

**Series 1**

**Box 1 FF 1-10**

Academic Coursework. This series consists of transcripts, papers, book reviews, class notes, correspondence, and doctoral examination materials, 1964-1972. Material is arranged chronologically by institution attended.

**Series 2**

**Box 1 FF 11-Box 2 FF 4**

Academic Career. This series consists of correspondence, meeting agendas, news clippings, student work, instructional material, and personal records relating to Dr. Flentje’s career as an administrator, board member, and professor at various institutions, 1969-2006. Material arranged chronologically according to institution.

**Series 3**

**Box 2 FF 5-Box 11 FF 3**

Government. This series consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, subject files, notes, public opinion poll data, news clippings, personal records, campaign ephemera, and periodical articles relating to the administrations of Governors Robert Bennett and Mike Hayden, as well as their respective election campaigns, 1972-2003. Contains seven subseries.

**Subseries 3.1**

**Box 2 FF 5-Box 4 FF 25**

Division of State Planning and Research, Governor Robert F. Bennett’s Administration. This subseries contains material pertaining to Dr. Flentje’s role as director of the above office and to Governor Bennett’s administration, 1972-1980. Material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Subseries 3.2**

**Box 4 FF 26-Box 5 FF 27**

Special Commission on a Public Agenda for Kansas. This subseries consists of material documenting the commission’s research and findings on public issues and policies critical to the future of Kansas, 1985-1989. Dr. Flentje acted as coordinator of the Commission and its 1986 report, Kansas Policy Choices. Material is arranged by subject.

**Subseries 3.3**

**Box 6 FF 1-FF 15**

Public Opinion Polls. This subseries contains public opinion poll data gathered during Mike Hayden’s 1986 election campaign and time in office as Governor of Kansas (1987-1991). Material is arranged chronologically.

**Subseries 3.4**

**Box 6 FF 16-Box 7 FF 14**

1986 and 1990 Campaigns of Mike Hayden. This subseries houses material relating to Hayden’s two campaigns for governor, 1982-1990. Dr. Flentje served as an advisor during both election bids. Material is arranged first by campaign, then by subject.

**Subseries 3.5**

**Box 7 FF 15-**

Legislative Task Force on Higher Education. This subseries
Box 8 FF 9 consists of material relating to the research and findings of the above body, which was formed in 1986 following release of the report, Kansas Policy Choices, 1985-1987. Dr. Flentje acted as a consultant to the task force and also wrote a supplementary report. Material is arranged alphabetically.

Subseries 3.6 Box 8 FF 10-Box 10 FF 3 Secretary of Administration, Governor Mike Hayden’s Administration. This subseries houses material relating to Dr. Flentje’s above role in Governor Hayden’s cabinet, 1984-1991. Material is arranged by subject.

Subseries 3.7 Box 10 FF 4-Box 11 FF 3 Governor’s Commission on a Public Agenda for Kansas. This subseries consists of material documenting the commission’s research and findings on public issues and policies critical to the future of Kansas, 1984-1991. Dr. Flentje acted as coordinator of the Commission and its report, Kansas Policy Choices, 1990. Material is arranged by subject.

Series 4 Box 11 FF 4-Box 12 FF 9 Election Campaigns. This series contains material pertaining to Bob Knight’s campaigns for city and state government positions as well as Dr. Joe Pisciotte’s campaign for city council, 1979-2003. Dr. Flentje acted as an informal advisor to both men. Consists of two subseries.

Subseries 4.1 Box 11 FF 4-Box 12 FF 4 Bob Knight. This subseries contains correspondence, news clippings, public opinion poll data, ephemera, flyers, and campaign statements pertaining to Knight’s various runs for city and state government positions, as well as his terms as Mayor of Wichita, 1979-2003. Material is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 4.2 Box 12 FF 5-9 Joe Pisciotte. This subseries contains voting data, notes, financial records, and flyers pertaining to Pisciotte’s 1999 campaign for Wichita City Council.

Series 5 Box 12 FF 10-Box 13 FF 4 Conferences and Publications. This series contains correspondence, programs, speeches, and papers relating to conferences attended by Dr. Flentje; also present are publications authored by him and other academics concerning higher education, 1968-1978. Conference material precedes publications; both subjects are arranged chronologically.

Series 6 Box 13 FF 5-Box 14 FF 9, Box 17 Personal Files and Correspondence. This series contains correspondence between Dr. Flentje and his personal and professional associates, along with resumes, conference papers, and press items concerning said associates, 1968-1990. Material is arranged alphabetically by last name.

Series 7 Box 14 FF 10-Box 15 FF 20 Wichita City Government. This series houses correspondence, clippings, research files, interview summaries, campaign mailers, and demographic records pertaining to past city managers, many former members of the Wichita City Commission (renamed the Wichita City Council in April 1987), and many city elections and referendums, 1917-2014. Contains three subseries.
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Subseries 7.2 Box 14 FF 17-28 City Commission/Council Members. Records are arranged alphabetically with parenthetical years of service following the person’s name.

Subseries 7.3 Box 15 FF 1-20 Research Files on City Elections. City election records are arranged by year followed by supplementary material on politicians O. H. Bentley and Henry J. Allen.

Series 8 Box 15 FF 21-Box 16 FF 5 Water. This series contains news clippings, correspondence, research notes, legal opinions, and reports mainly relating to water issues and policies in Kansas, 1953-1991. Records are arranged by subject.

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Series 7 – Research Material on Wichita City Government
Subseries 7.1 – City Managers

Box 14 FF 10 E. T. Battin (1917), Louis R. Ash (1917-1919), L. W. Clapp (1919-1921), Earl C. Elliott (1921-1927), Bert C. Wells (1927-1939), Alfred MacDonald (1939-1941), Donald Gordon (May-July 1941), Paul Brockway (July 1941), Russell McClure (1941-1948), Monty P. Jones (1948-1952)


Box 14 FF 12 News clippings on Gene Denton, 1979-1985

Box 14 FF 13 Chris Cherches (1985-2003)

Box 14 FF 14 News clippings on Chris Cherches, 1985-2004


Subseries 7.2 – City Commission/Council Members


Box 14 FF 18 Carl Bell (1961-1965)


Box 14 FF 20 Tony Casado (1975-1987), Bill Cather (1993-1997)


Notes on council members in 1963 Who’s Who in Wichita, n.d.

Subseries 7.3 – Research Files on City Elections

Box 15 FF 1 1895 and 1897 elections
Box 15 FF 2 1898-1902 elections
Box 15 FF 3 1903-1908 elections
Box 15 FF 4 1909 referendum on commission plan, 1911 recall election, 1913 election
Box 15 FF 5 1917 referendum on commission-manager plan (part 1 of 2)
Box 15 FF 6 1917 referendum on commission-manager plan (part 2 of 2)
Box 15 FF 7 1919 and 1921 elections
Box 15 FF 8 1933, 1934, 1939, 1955, and 1957 elections
Box 15 FF 9 1965 referendum on commission-manager plan
Box 15 FF 10 1971 and 1975 elections
Box 15 FF 11 1986 Presidents’ Commission on City Governance
Box 15 FF 12 November 1986 referendum on mayoral/district election
Box 15 FF 13 August 1988 referendum on mayoral/district election
Box 15 FF 14 November 1988 referendum on mayoral/district election
Box 15 FF 15 1989 election
Box 15 FF 16 February 1991 referendum on mayoral and council salaries
Box 15 FF 17 1991 and 1993 elections
Box 15 FF 18 1993 public safety referendum, 1997 election, 2002 referendum on DynaPlex, 2003 election
Box 15 FF 19 2004 arena referendum (Sedgwick County), 2007 election

Series 8 – Water
| Box 15 FF 21 | A. E. Howse: City of Wichita papers, 1955-1959, 1981 |
| Box 15 FF 22 | A. E. Howse: General summary reports, Long-range water program for Wichita (revised), Volumes 1 and 2, 1971 |
| Box 15 FF 23 | A. E. Howse: General summary reports, Long-range water program for Wichita (revised), Volume 3 (part 1 of 2), 1971 |
| Box 15 FF 24 | A. E. Howse: General summary reports, Long-range water program for Wichita (revised), Volume 3 (part 2 of 2), 1971 |
| Box 15 FF 25 | A. E. Howse: General summary reports, Long-range water program for Wichita (revised), Volume 4, 1971 |
| Box 15 FF 27 | Kansas Board of Agriculture (2 of 2), 1975-1982, n.d. |
| Box 16 FF 2 | Water – Court cases, 1968-1981, n.d. |
| Box 16 FF 3 | Wichita/Kansas news clippings (1 of 3), 1979 |
| Box 16 FF 4 | Wichita/Kansas news clippings (2 of 3), 1979-1982 |
| Box 16 FF 5 | Wichita/Kansas news clippings (3 of 3), 1983-1986 |

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