

Carol Ronen Papers 1952-2009

Creator: Carol Ronen (1945-)

Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact wlarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright is retained by Carol Ronen.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Carol Ronen Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Carol Ronen in 2009 (WLA2009.7).

Processor: Sutton Skowron, July 2010

Processing Information: Finding aid updated December 2025.

Separations: 0.33 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

Biographical History

Carol Ronen was born March 28, 1945 in Chicago. She is an alumna of New Trier Township High School (1962), Bradley University (1967, Political Science), and Roosevelt University (1979, Master of Public Administration). She served as an Illinois State Representative in the 17th District from 1993-2000, prior to which she served as Executive Director of the Chicago Commission on Women. Carol was appointed to the Illinois State Senate for District 7 in 2000 after the resignation of her predecessor, Arthur Berman, and was subsequently elected without an opponent. In 2006, she won reelection by defeating Republican Frank Thomas. In October 2007, she announced that she would resign as District 7 State Senator and would not complete her term. She officially stepped down on February 10, 2008, and was succeeded in office by Heather Steans.

Carol was highly recognized as a progressive politician who championed the causes of early childhood education, health care, violence prevention, and human rights. She was the lead sponsor of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which protects Illinois residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation. She was also a strong supporter of the Equal Pay Act, which increased the number of women covered by equal pay protections, and was a driving force behind increasing the Illinois minimum wage.

Carol received numerous awards during her tenure of public service, including: 2003 Best Friend Award from the Kids in Danger Foundation for her role in passing the Illinois Children's Product Safety Act; 2003 Community Service Award for Rogers Park Montessori School for her work in early childhood development programs; 2004 Policy Advocate Award from Illinois Action for Children for expanding and improving child care programs in Illinois; 2004 Woman of the Year from the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Organization for her efforts in providing services to immigrant communities; 2004 Community Service Award from the Immigrant and Refugee Coalition for her work on legislation to protect elderly immigrants from changes in federal policies; and the 2004 Ethel Parker Award from the Independent Voters of Illinois (IVI/IPO) for having the best voting record on progressive, good government bills.

Carol is a strong voice in Chicago's Jewish community and sits on the Government Affairs Committee of the Jewish Federation of Chicago. She is also a member of the Chicago chapter of Hadassah.

Scope and Content

The Carol Ronen Papers consist of two linear feet (4 boxes) of materials that span the years 1952-2009 relating to Carol's public life, Democratic Party activism, and time in public office. These documents include personal items, campaign memorabilia, information on political causes, speeches, recommendations, correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, and photographs. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Series 1: Biographical, 1952-1995, Box 1

This series contains materials relating to Carol's childhood and education, including grade school report cards, programs, a salary request form, and diplomas.

Series 2: Professional, 1971-2009, undated, Boxes 2-3

This series contains items collected from Carol's professional life working for the City of Chicago and in public service. Documents include professional correspondence, campaign materials, newsletters, newspaper and magazine clippings, assorted copies of her résumé, and letters of recommendation. Also included are drafts of political speeches, professional awards and invitations, collected material on political issues of importance to her, and political material of other candidates whom Carol supported.

Series 3: Visual and 3-D Objects, 1994-1998, undated, Boxes 3-4

This series contains political photographs of Carol and campaign buttons for her and other candidates whom she supported.

Subjects:

Ronen, Carol (1945-)

Women in politics—Illinois

Democratic Party—Illinois

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Carol Ronen Papers 1952-2009</i>	
		Series 1: Biographical, 1952-1995	
1	1	Biographical	1952-1995
1	2	Diploma – High School	1962
1	3	Diploma – Bachelor’s Degree	1967
1	4	Diploma – Master’s Degree	1979
		Series 2: Professional, 1971-2009, undated	
2	1	Addresses and Correspondence	1979-1998, undated
2	2	Campaign Materials	1993, undated
2	3	Citizens for Carol Ronen, A-L	undated
2	4	Citizens for Carol Ronen, M-Z	undated
2	5	Other Political Material	1992, 2008, 2016, undated
2	6	Political Issues	2003-2005, undated
2	7	Press	1981-2009, undated
2	8	Recommendations and Résumés	1979-1989, undated
2	9	Speeches	1996-1999, undated
3	1	Awards	1971-2008, undated
3	2	Constituent Outreach	1993-2007, undated
3	3	Invitations	1992-2005, undated
3	4	Menus and Programs	1995-2007
		Series 3: Visual and 3-D Objects, 1994-1998, undated	
3	5	Photographs	undated
4	1	Campaign Buttons	1994-1998, undated