



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. 69

## Mark Roosevelt Papers, 1991-2000, bulk 1991-1995: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Roosevelt, Mark.

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 69

**Extent:** 3 boxes (3 linear feet)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Mark Roosevelt Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**Provenance:** Received from Mark Roosevelt, 1995.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Mary Bicknell, 1995; updated by Abigail Cramer, December, 2012.

**Abstract:** This collection documents Roosevelt's tenure as a Massachusetts State Representative from the 8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District from 1987 to 1994.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents Representative Roosevelt's years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The collection focuses on his work on the issue of education reform. The collection includes bills, reports, analyses, correspondence, and memoranda. The collection also documents working groups created in 1991 to study education reform issues and suggest resolutions to those issues. The working groups studied finance, governance and school management, academics and accountability, and the interaction of schools and the communities they serve. The Working Groups material includes mission statements, member lists and

resumes, memoranda, reports, meeting minutes, and schedules. The collection also includes materials from a Town Meeting which addressed education reform issues.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Mark Roosevelt was born in Washington, D.C. on December 10, 1955. He graduated from the St. Alban's School in 1974, received a B.A. from Harvard College in 1978, and received a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1983. A resident of Boston, Roosevelt served as a Democratic Representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District from 1987 to 1994. He also served on the Ward 5 Democratic Committee. During Roosevelt's years in office, he served on the following committees: Education, Arts and Humanities (as Chair), Natural Resources and Agriculture, and Taxation. In 1989, he also served on two special commissions, Comparable Worth and Parenting Leave. Education reform and the issues connected with it were Roosevelt's chief focus during his eight years in office. In June, 1993, the Education Reform Act was signed into law (Chapter 71) by Governor Weld amid a great deal of controversy. The act emphasizes accountability of principals and teachers and allows for school choice and charter schools. Among other provisions, it abolishes tenure and creates a seven-year plan of school financing not based on local property tax. Roosevelt's other legislative priorities were environmental issues (particularly waste reduction), affordable housing, children's issues, gay rights, government accountability, and economic development and job creation. In 1994, Mark Roosevelt was the Democratic candidate for Governor, but he lost to incumbent Republican William Weld.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### ***Arrangement***

The papers are arranged in the original order in which the collection was received. Included with the papers is an index to the collection (reproduced at the end of this finding aid, pages 4-18) prepared by Representative Roosevelt and his staff. The arrangement of the collection follows the order of the index. The index lists nine groups of records: "Final Bills," "Bill Drafts and Amendments," "Working Groups," "Letters: Main Bills," "Letters: School Choice/Charter Schools," "Letters: Personnel," "Internal Memoranda," "Finance," and "Press Clippings." The "Internal Memoranda" and "Press Clippings" groups were not included with the collection when it was given to the State Library. The material titled "Letters: Personnel" does not appear to deal with personnel issues and has been retitled "Letters: Education Issues."

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

The collection is entirely in English.

### ***Immediate Source of Acquisition***

Received from Mark Roosevelt, 1995. A few items in the collection are dated past the date the collection was donated and may have been subsequent additions.

### ***Container List***

Please see the index to the collection at the end of this finding aid (pages 4-18) for more information on the contents of the collection.

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