

Guide to the Gary Franks Papers

GEN MSS 2153



Beinecke staff

April 2025

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2153

CREATOR: Franks, Gary, 1953-

TITLE: Gary Franks papers

DATES: circa 1990-2022

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.3 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The collection documents the professional and personal life of Congressman Gary Franks. It includes diaries, notebooks, correspondence, reports, press materials, research materials, and writings largely focused on his political career, particularly welfare reform and elections. Also present are a small quantity of papers related to his consultant career and personal papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.franks>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.franks>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Gary Franks, 2023.

Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research.

Boxes 1-11, 17 (notebooks and diaries, election consultant correspondence, consultant career): Restricted until 2048 or five years after the death of Gary Franks, whichever occurs first. For further information consult Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Conditions Governing Use

The Gary Franks papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Gary Franks Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

Processing Information

Most folder titles were devised by the archivist at the time of processing. Original folder titles have been enclosed in quotation marks. Additions to original folder titles have been enclosed in brackets.

Biographical / Historical

Gary Franks (1953-) is an American politician who represented Connecticut's 5th district in the United States House of Representatives from 1991 to 1997. Franks was the first African American elected to Congress from Connecticut and the first modern Black conservative elected to the House of Representatives. He was born in Waterbury, Connecticut and received a B.A. in sociology from Yale University in 1975. After an unsuccessful Senate run in 1998, Franks retired from politics. He became a consultant, founding the firms Franks and Genua Associates and Gary Alvin Associates. He has also taught at Georgetown University, Hampton University, and the University of Virginia.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the professional and personal life of Congressman Gary Franks. It includes diaries, notebooks, correspondence, reports, press materials, research materials, and writings largely focused on his political career, particularly welfare reform and elections. A significant portion of the professional papers stem from Franks's work as chair of the Welfare Reform Task Force. Records relating to elections include press releases, correspondence, and voter surveys. Also present are a small quantity of papers related to his consultant career and personal papers.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Notebooks and diaries, circa 1992-2022. II. Professional papers, 1990-2017. III. Writings, circa 1996-2002. IV. Personal papers, circa 1993-2018.

Collection Contents

Notebooks and diaries, circa 1992-2022

Notebooks and diaries documenting the life and career of Congressman Gary Franks, including his political career, work as a consultant, family life, and religious reflections.

Restricted until 2048 or five years after the death of Gary Franks, whichever occurs first.

Arranged as received to maintain Franks's original filing system and connections between dated and undated notebooks in each folder and adjacent folders.

b. 1, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2017-2021
b. 1, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2017-2022
b. 1, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2004-2020
b. 1, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	1999-2019
b. 2, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	undated
b. 2, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	2018 and undated
b. 2, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1998-2003
b. 2, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	1996-2000
b. 2, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1996-2017
b. 3, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1997-2018
b. 3, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2000
b. 3, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2001-2009
b. 3, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2000-2001
b. 3, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1999-2001
b. 4, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	2017-2018
b. 4, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2000-2001
b. 4, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2001-2018
b. 4, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1992-2013
b. 4, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1994-1998
b. 5, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	2002-2003
b. 5, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2020
b. 5, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2013-2019
b. 5, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1997-2011

b. 5, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	1996-1997
b. 6, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2004-2020
b. 6, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	2020 and undated
b. 6, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	2005 and undated
b. 6, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	circa 1995-2005
b. 6, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	2005 and undated
b. 6, f. 6	Notebooks and diaries	2006-2007 and undated
b. 6, f. 7	Notebooks and diaries	2002-2007
b. 7, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	2005, 2010, and undated
b. 7, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2009-2010
b. 7, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	2010-2021
b. 7, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	2004-2006
b. 7, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	2020
b. 7, f. 6	Notebooks and diaries	2001-2006
b. 8, f. 1	Notebook	2002
b. 8, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	2012-2013
b. 8, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	2011-2014
b. 8, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	2015
b. 8, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	2011-2016
b. 9, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2011-2013
b. 9, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2011-2016
b. 9, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	2014
b. 9, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	2009, 2016
b. 9, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	2009-2012
b. 9, f. 6	Notebooks and diaries	2010-2012
b. 9, f. 7	Notebooks and diaries	circa 2009-2010
b. 10, f. 1	Diaries	2005-2015
b. 10, f. 2	Diaries	2007-2009

b. 10, f. 3	Diaries	2011-2012
b. 10, f. 4	Notebooks and diaries	2017 and undated
b. 10, f. 5	Notebooks and diaries	2010, 2018
b. 11, f. 1	Notebooks and diaries	2012-2017
b. 11, f. 2	Notebooks and diaries	2014-2016
b. 11, f. 3	Notebooks and diaries	2014-2017

Professional papers, 1990–2017, bulk 1990–1998

Correspondence, reports, research materials, contracts, meeting minutes, and press releases documenting Franks's career as a Congressman and consultant, including elections, welfare reform, and correspondence with conservative think tanks.

Organized into two subseries: Congressional career, 1990-1999. Consultant career, 1997-2017.

Congressional career		1990–1999
Organized into five groupings: Elections, Welfare reform, Urban Entrepreneurial Opportunities Act, Press materials, and Correspondence.		
	Elections	1990–1998
b. 11, f. 4	Consultant correspondence	1996–1997
	Restricted until 2048 or five years after the death of Gary Franks, whichever occurs first.	
b. 12, f. 1	Candidate position questionnaires	1990
b. 12, f. 2-4	Voter survey report	1992
b. 12, f. 5	Senate campaign press packet	1998
Welfare reform		1990–1999
Arranged chronologically.		
b. 12, f. 6	"Bill Paxon welfare reform"	circa 1990s
b. 12, f. 7	Congressional Research Services reports on welfare reform	1990–1992
b. 12, f. 8	Connecticut welfare reform	1991–1993
b. 12, f. 9	Welfare Reform Task Force meetings	1992
b. 12, f. 10	"Shaw-Johnson-Grandy welfare reform bill"	1992
b. 13, f. 1-2	Paternal Responsibility Act	1992–1993
b. 13, f. 3	Republican welfare research committee	1992–1993
b. 13, f. 4	Welfare reform research and notes	1993
b. 13, f. 5	Welfare task force letter draft	1993
b. 13, f. 6	Welfare task force breakfast	1993
b. 13, f. 7	"Welfare reform - Douglas J. Besharov"	1993
b. 13, f. 8-9	Welfare reform correspondence, meeting notes, and research materials	1993–1994
b. 13, f. 10	Welfare reform research materials	1993–1994
b. 13, f. 11	Child support report	1994
	Urban Entrepreneurial Opportunities Act	1992

Congressional career > Urban Entrepreneurial Opportunities Act (continued)

b. 14, f. 1-3	Urban Entrepreneurial Opportunities Act correspondence, drafts, and research materials	1992
b. 14, f. 4	Urban Entrepreneurial Opportunities Act correspondence	1992
	Press materials	1990-1996
	Arranged chronologically.	
b. 14, f. 5	Press releases	1990
b. 14, f. 6	Press clippings	circa 1991
b. 14, f. 7	Press releases	1992
b. 14, f. 8	"Frankly Speaking" op-eds	1992-1996
b. 14, f. 9	Newsletters	1992-1996
b. 14, f. 10-12	Press releases	1993
b. 14, f. 13	"Frankly Speaking" television segments	1993-1995
b. 15, f. 1-3	Press releases	1994
b. 15, f. 4	Press book	1994
b. 15, f. 5-8	Press releases	1995
b. 16, f. 1-2	Press releases	1995
b. 16, f. 3	Press book	1995-1996
b. 16, f. 4-5	Press releases	1996
	Correspondence	1993-1996
	Outgoing correspondence is filed first in chronological order, followed by incoming correspondence in chronological order.	
b. 16, f. 6	Outgoing correspondence	1993
b. 16, f. 7	Outgoing correspondence	1994
b. 16, f. 8	Outgoing correspondence	1995
b. 16, f. 9	Outgoing correspondence	1996
b. 16, f. 10	Incoming correspondence	1994
b. 16, f. 11	Incoming correspondence	1995
	Consultant career	1997-2017
	Restricted until 2048 or five years after the death of Gary Franks, whichever occurs first.	
b. 17, f. 1-3	Consultant contracts and notes	1997-2017

Writings, circa 1996-2002

Arranged chronologically.

b. 18, f. 1-2	<i>Searching for the Promised Land</i> excerpts	circa 1996
b. 18, f. 3-4	"Story" [notes and drafts]	circa 2002
b. 18, f. 5	<i>Eggs in One Basket</i> outline and notes	undated
b. 18, f. 6-7	"The Political Aberrations" script	undated

Personal papers, circa 1993-2018

Arranged chronologically.

b. 18, f. 8-9	Clippings and notes	1993-2016
b. 18, f. 10	Personal political activities	1994-2018
b. 18, f. 11	Franks family reunion packet	2004

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African American conservatives
African American legislators
African American politicians
Legislators -- Connecticut
Politicians -- Connecticut
Public welfare -- Law and legislation -- United States

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Politics and government -- 20th Century
United States -- Politics and government -- 20th Century