

Corinne Wood Papers, 1985-2018, undated

Preliminary Finding Aid

Creator: Corinne Wood

Extent: 67 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: None

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

Provenance: Materials in the collection were donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Corinne Wood in 2018.

Processing Information: This collection is unprocessed. Information in this preliminary finding aid was gathered through an initial inventory. Preliminary finding aid created in 2021.

Separations: None

Biographical History

Corinne Wood was the first female Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, serving from 1998-2003. As Lieutenant Governor, Wood led state programs related to economic development, the environment, rural communities, and women's health.

Corinne Gioseke was born May 28, 1954. Growing up in Barrington, Illinois, she attended Grove Avenue School and graduated from Barrington High School in 1972. While in high school, she participated in the Illinois Lincoln Series, an educational program designed to prepare Republican women for work in government.

Wood attended the University of Illinois, where she earned a B.A. in Psychology and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. After graduating from Loyola University Law School in 1979, she was named general counsel to the Illinois Commissioner of Banks and Trusts. She later joined a Chicago law firm and practiced corporate law for 20 years.

Wood was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1996. During her first year, she sponsored more bills signed into law than any other freshman State Representative to date. Wood

was tapped in her first term by gubernatorial candidate George Ryan to run for Lieutenant Governor on the 1999 Republican ticket. On January 11, 1999, Wood was inaugurated as the first female Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, the second highest ranking state office. Ryan and Wood served one term together ending in 2003.

As Lieutenant Governor, Wood served as chairman of the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, the Illinois Rural Bond Bank and the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council. She was also head of the Illinois Main Street Program, which promoted economic development in communities throughout the state. Wood took on other initiatives chosen by herself or the governor. Wood introduced Scott's Law, or the Move Over Law, which requires drivers to reduce their speed and change lanes when passing emergency vehicles with their flashing lights on. The governor appointed her to lead the State Government Accountability Council.

In early 1997, just before being chosen to run for Lieutenant Governor, Wood was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her fight with the disease led to her focus on women's health issues during her time in office. Governor George Ryan named Wood to lead the "Women's Health Illinois" initiative to improve women's health education and services. Early in her term, Wood launched a campaign to increase funding for the state's breast cancer research fund. The campaign called "A Check for a Cure," encouraged people to donate to the research fund by checking a box on their income tax form. Contributions to the breast cancer research fund doubled in the campaign's first year. Wood also succeeded in renaming the fund after the late State Senator Penny Severns, who died of breast cancer in 1998.

Corruption scandals led Governor George Ryan to not run for reelection. Corinne Wood ran for Governor of Illinois in the 2002 election. She came in third in the primary, losing to Attorney General Jim Ryan.

Wood served on the board of directors for CHANGE Illinois, an organization working for more ethical and efficient governments and elections. She also served on the boards of Chicago Stock Exchange, NPR Illinois, Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, University of Chicago Harris Public Policy School, DePauw University, Civic Committee of Chicago, University of Illinois Institute for Government and Public Affairs, and the women's board of the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Corinne Wood was married to Paul Wood and had three children. She passed away 2021 due to complications related to her long fight with metastatic breast cancer.

Scope and Content

The Corinne Wood Papers consist of 67 linear feet and span the years 1985 to 2018. The papers relate primarily to her time serving as Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, as well as her time as a state representative and her campaigns for Lieutenant Governor and Governor. Materials include briefings, meeting minutes, schedules, publications and news clippings, budget reports, booklets, correspondence, memorabilia, and more.

- Campaign: briefings, fundraiser event materials, correspondence, signs, posters

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- State Representative: General Assembly binders, legislation position papers, newsletters, correspondence.
- Briefings by topic: government and political, county, state, subjects such as women's health in Illinois and women's initiatives
- Office administrative: staff meeting minutes, schedules, budget reports, annual reports, correspondence
- Office initiatives: programs and initiatives, events, conferences
- Memorabilia: plaques, certificates, awards, souvenirs, stationery, event shirts,
- Publications and news clippings