



*New York State Archives*

**New York State War Council Governor's Correspondence  
with Citizens on War Issues A4291**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series contains correspondence from New York citizens to the Governor requesting assistance with war-related concerns, including draft board issues and problems; requests for exemptions from rationing; matters relating to home front activities such as civil defense; and family military concerns. The Governor, the nominal head of the War Council, responded as part of his role as the liaison between the public and the government. A copy of his (or an assistant's) reply often is attached to the correspondence.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York State War Council
<b>Title:</b>	Governor's correspondence with citizens on war issues
<b>Quantity:</b>	3.8 cubic feet
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1942-1945
<b>Series:</b>	A4291

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## Arrangement

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Alphabetical by last name of correspondent.

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## Scope and Content Note

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As titular head of the War Council, the Governor oversaw its operations, appointed administrators, and presided at selected meetings. Because of this high profile, many citizens wrote to the Governor requesting assistance with war-related issues and problems, and he responded as part of his role as the liaison between the public and the government.

This series contains correspondence from citizens from around the state concerning: complaints of favoritism on draft boards; requests for exemptions from rationing; offers to volunteer for the armed services or home front activities, usually the draft board; suggestions

for wartime procedures such as civil defense; other matters relating to home front activities; and requests for aid with family members' military concerns (leave, promotions, assignments, etc.)

A copy of the Governor's (or an assistant's) reply often is attached to the correspondence. Because draft board appointments were handled by mayors and county judges, the governor politely referred the many correspondents requesting appointments to draft boards to write to those officials. Also, tracking sheets listing correspondents' names and, infrequently, tracking responses (how routed, etc.), are found within each folder. The file intermixes letters addressed to Governors Herbert H. Lehman and Thomas E. Dewey (who took office in 1943).

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

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## Administrative Information

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### Processing Information

This series was originally accessioned as boxes 251, 252, 253, and part of 250 of old collection #77, accession -71.

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## Access Terms

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- World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives
- World War, 1939-1945--Social aspects--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- World War, 1939-1945--Public opinion
- Communicating
- Counseling
- Correspondence
- Draft--New York (State)
- Voluntarism--New York (State)
- Rationing--New York (State)

- Dewey, Thomas E. (Thomas Edmund), 1902-1971
- New York (State). Governor (1933-1942 : Lehman)
- New York (State). Governor (1943-1954 : Dewey)