



New York State Archives

Political Papers of Frank Wayland Higgins B1945

New York State Archives
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12230
archref@nysed.gov
URL: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series documents Frank Wayland Higgins' political career as New York State Senator, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor. The bulk of the series consists of newspaper clippings of articles and political cartoons, invitations to social occasions, correspondence, and telegrams housed in scrapbooks. A significant portion of the records document Higgins' campaigns for office, as well as the struggle for power in the Republican Party.
Creator:	Higgins, Frank Wayland, 1856-1907
Title:	Political papers of Frank Wayland Higgins
Quantity:	4.1 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1859-1907
Bulk Date:	(bulk 1900-1907)
Series:	B1945

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Arrangement

Chronological, except for Boxes 14 and 15, which are alphabetical.

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Administrative History

Frank Wayland Higgins, Republican and 38th Governor of New York, was born on August 18, 1856. A successful owner of a grocery business, Higgins also had interests in timber and mineral properties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Higgins was elected as New York State Senator to the 50th district in 1893. From 1896-1902, Senator Higgins served as Chairman of the State Finance Committee. In 1902, he was elected to the position of Lieutenant Governor, serving under Governor Odell. In 1904 Higgins was chosen as the

Republican Party's nominee for Governor. During the campaign, Higgins struggled to distance himself from now unpopular Governor Odell and prove that he was not a political puppet.

After he was elected governor, Higgins worked to investigate life insurance business in New York and abolish direct state tax. He also established an "electric lighting plant" for the State Capitol and the Executive Mansion, actually saving New York money. Governor Higgins was friends with President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt frequently sought Higgins' opinions and ideas while serving as Governor of New York and President of the United States.

Frank Wayland Higgins died on February 12, 1907, having just left the Office of Governor. Higgins had decided not to seek another term in office, due to his declining health. It is thought that Higgins died from a heart condition and kidney disease.

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Scope and Content Note

The papers relate to Frank Wayland Higgins' political career as New York State Senator, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor. The majority consist of newspaper clippings of articles and political cartoons, invitations to social occasions, correspondence, and telegrams housed in scrapbooks. Other materials include correspondence, photographs, and event programs. Some of the scrapbooks contain invitations, cards, newspaper clippings, and information on Higgins' retirement and death.

A significant portion of the records document Higgins' campaigns for office, as well as the struggle for power in the Republican Party. Correspondents of note include Theodore Roosevelt, Gov. Frank Black, Gov. Levi Morton, Thomas Platt, M. Linn Bruce, Timothy Woodruff, Melvil Dewey, Elihu Root, W. J. Houghton, Nicholas Murray Butler, Judge Gary of U.S. Steel, and Jacob G. Schurman.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

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

Alternate Formats Available

Items Online

High resolution images of selected original documents in this series are available in State Archives Digital Collections.

[Political papers of Frank Wayland Higgins, 1859-1907](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

These records were a gift to the Syracuse University Manuscripts and Special Collections by the family of Frank Wayland Higgins in 1963. They were transferred to the New York State Archives in June 2006 and accessioned in the summer of 2007.

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Access Terms

- Governors--New York (State)
- Monitoring
- Black-and-white prints (photographs)
- Political campaigns
- Supervising
- New York (State)
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Scrapbooks
- Correspondence
- New York (State)--Politics and government
- Political cartoons
- Elections--New York (State)
- Black, Frank S. (Frank Swett), 1853-1913.
- New York (State). Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Root, Elihu, 1845-1937.
- Schurman, Jacob Gould, 1854-1942.
- Woodruff, Timothy L. (Timothy Lester), 1858-1913.
- Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947.
- Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920.
- Platt, Thomas Collier, 1833-1910.
- Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
- Republican Party (N.Y.)
- Dewey, Melvil, 1851-1931

- **New York (State). Governor (1905-1906 : Higgins)**