Bio/History note
Dorothy Mae Taylor was born 10 August 1928 in New Orleans, La. to Charles H. DeLavallade and Mary Jackson. In 1948, she married Johnny Taylor Jr. They had seven children: Johnny III, Gerald, Charles, Beverly, Bernice, Belinda, and Brenda.

Prior to getting involved in politics, Taylor studied at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. and was a Headstart Teacher at William J. Guste Elementary School. During the early 1960s, she was an activist in the Civil Rights movement assisting in marches, sit-ins, and picketing.

The first political office Taylor held was Deputy Clerk in the New Orleans Civil District Court. Among her achievements, Taylor was the first African American female elected to the Louisiana State Legislature (1971), first woman to receive the Louisiana State University “Legislator of the Year Award” (1972), Director of the Central City Neighborhood Health Clinic (1980), first African American woman to head a state department (Dept. of Urban and Community Affairs) (1984), and the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the La. Association of Community Action Agencies (1985). In 1986, Taylor was elected Councilwoman-at-Large in New Orleans.

Taylor’s political career included serving on several local economic and social improvement committees such as the Central City Economic Opportunity Committee, Children’s Council of New Orleans, African American Women for Change, Governor’s Commission on the Handicap, City Park Commission, Housing and Human Needs Committee, Regional Planning Commission, and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans. She also served on health-related boards that included the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Health Education Authority of Louisiana, and the Health, Education, and Welfare committee in the state legislature. In addition, Taylor served on the boards of various religious associations such as the People’s Methodist Community Center and St. Mark’s Community Center. Taylor was active in national organizations as well including the American Civil Liberties Union, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee of the National League of Cities.

Taylor died 18 August 2000.
Scope and Content
This collection covers 3.5 linear ft. and spans 1971-2005 with the bulk of material dating 1971-1994. It includes newspaper articles on Taylor’s political career, professional correspondence, financial records of her office, awards and speeches, campaign materials, election results, and her obituaries. The collection also contains photographs, slides, and CDs of Taylor’s meetings with two United States presidents, her family, and newspaper headlines of her career. Finally, the collection includes records of Taylor’s involvement in the controversial Mardi Gras Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of 1991 in New Orleans.

This collection is arranged chronologically.
Series List

1. Political Career
   - Sub-series:
     1. General
     2. Campaigns and Elections 4-5
     3. Mardi Gras
     4. Financial
     5. Photographs and Slides
     6. Speeches 7-11
     7. Awards & Certificates

2. Biography/Obituaries

Page
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4
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7-11
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Inventory


Box 1  FF 1—Articles (1976-1986, n.d.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Focus: article on Taylor, New Orleans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Article on Taylor &amp; invitation to cocktail party in her honor.</td>
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</table>

FF 2—Correspondence (1979-1989)
- Includes correspondence between Taylor and the White House regarding her pending visit to discuss “Concerns Important to the Black Community.”
- Also includes correspondence and outline from Gloria Firmin on a proposed biographical sketch of Taylor’s career.

FF 3—Appointment as Acting Mayor (1986-1994)
- Includes two letters from Mayor Barthelemy to Taylor appointing her acting mayor of New Orleans while he is out of town.


Box 1  FF 4—Qualifying Form: Notice of Candidacy (1984-1993)
- Includes qualifying forms for 1986 and 1994 elections for Councilman-at-Large


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>“The Conspiracy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Blvd. renovations</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>YDC Bulletin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Two ballot voting suggestions by Parents of Nicholls High School &amp; Political Unity for Lasting Leadership.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Box 1**  
- Includes compiled results of general election returns for Councilman-at-Large, Councilman, Register/Registrar of Conveyances, Civil Court Judge, Sheriff, Assessor, Mayor, Clerk of Court, and Recorder of Mortgages.

**FF 7—Endorsements (1994)**  
- Includes Taylor’s endorsements and her “Thank You” letter in her bid for Register/Registrar of Conveyances in New Orleans.

**FF 8—Inaugural Ceremonies (1986-1990)**  
- Includes programs for City of New Orleans inaugural ceremonies with autographs from the mayor and fellow council members.

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**Box 5**  
**Oversized (n.d.)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Grocery bags inscribed with advertisement for Taylor for city Council-at-Large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Campaign newspapers advertising Taylor’s bid for re-election to Councilwoman-at-Large.</td>
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**Box 1**  

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<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>“Proposed Law is absurd” by Phillip A. Buhler; “Big Sister” by Pamela D. Guice</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Interoffice memo from Deputy City Attorney to Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Interoffice memo from Taylor to Deputy City Attorney</td>
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Box 1


(continued)

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<td>8</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Internet article on Taylor’s effort in passing Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of 1991</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>“One Unamused Councilwoman,” unidentified newspaper</td>
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Box 5

**Oversized (1992)**

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<th>Item #</th>
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</table>

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**Sub-series 4: Financial (1993)**

Box 1

**FF 10—Finance Report (1993)**

- Includes Taylor’s office expenses.

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Box 1

**FF 11—Photographs: CD with Index (1971, n.d.)**

- Includes photographs of Taylor stored on CD with printed index.

**FF 12—Photographs (1991, n.d.)**

- Includes photographs of Taylor with President Jimmy Carter, President Bill Clinton, Mary Landrieu, and Sally Jesse Raphael.

**FF 13—Photograph: Portrait (n.d.)**

- Contains studio portrait of Taylor.

**FF 14—Photographs & Slides (n.d.)**

- Contains photographs and slides of newspaper headlines on Taylor’s political career, including photo taken with Gov. Edwin Edwards.

Box 2


FF 2—Press Release: Conditions at Parish Prison (1970s)

FF 3—Women Blazing Trails in the 1970s (1970s)

FF 4—Women Power: A Strength of Our Nation (June 1971)

FF 5—Black Convention (July 1971)

FF 6—Urban League: Tell It Like It Is (July 1971)

FF 7—Angola Prison Reform (August 1971)

FF 8—Support Speech for Black Candidates in La. (Oct. 1971)

FF 9—Southern University Commencement (Dec. 1971)

FF 10—Guste School Black History Week (Feb. 1972)

FF 11—State Budget Legislature (May 1972)

FF 12—WBOK Radio Editorial (May 1972)

FF 13—Booker T. Washington Commencement Address (1985)

FF 14—Speech on the Flag (June 1986)

FF 15—The Equality of Women (August 1986)

FF 16—Support for Millage Increase for Schools (Sept. 1986)

FF 17—Address to Black Women (Feb. 1987)

FF 18—Steps Toward Becoming a Councilwoman-at-Large (July 1988)

FF 19—Louisiana Women for Dukakis (Sept. 1988)

FF 20—Women: Your Power, Your Vote (Oct. 1988)

FF 21—Living the Dream (Jan. 1989)
Box 2  Speeches (1971-1994, n.d.) continued

FF 22—A Justified People Challenged for a Progressive Leadership (Feb. 1989)

FF 23—Opportunities for Black Women in Politics (Feb. 1989)


FF 26—Expression of concerns to the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches (March 1989)

FF 27—Realtor’s Place in Government (April 1989)


FF 29—Zeta Phi Beta Sorority 50th Regional Leadership Conference (June 1989)


FF 31—Press Statement (Nov. 1989)

FF 32—Guste Elementary 25th Anniversary (Jan. 1990)

FF 33—Women & the Community Working Hand in Hand Together (Jan. 1990)

FF 34—Youth Rally on Drugs (March 1990)

FF 35—Association of Collegiate Business Schools (July 1991)

Box 3  

FF 1—Anti-Discrimination at Mardi Gras (1992)

FF 2—Staying in School (Feb. 1992)

FF 3—Vieux Carre Metro Community Church (Feb. 1992)

FF 4—The Challenge of Resurgence Racism in Louisiana (March 1992)

FF 5—La. Association. of Community Services Organization (April 1992)
Box 3  Speeches (1971-1994, n.d.) continued

FF 6—National Bar Association (Oct. 1992)

FF 7—National Black Caucus of State Legislators (Dec. 1992)

FF 8—Fundraiser Welcome (1993)

FF 9—Charity Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 1993)

FF 10—Developing Community Response to the Drug Problem (May 1993)

FF 11—Literacy & “All That Jazz” Program (June 1993)

FF 12—Head Start (Oct. 1993)

FF 13—Living the Dream, Let Freedom Ring (Jan. 1994)

FF 14—Accomplishments (n.d.)

FF 15—Alvin Thomas, Candidate for State Legislature (n.d.)

FF 16—Angola (n.d.)

FF 17—Black Heritage in Louisiana (n.d.)

FF 18—Black History (n.d.)

FF 19—Black Women (n.d.)

FF 20—Black Women Mayor’s Caucus (n.d.)

FF 21—Blacks Now: What Have We Achieved (n.d.)

FF 22—Central City Senior Citizen Banquet (n.d.)

FF 23—Charity Hospital (n.d.)

FF 24—Commitment & Involvement (n.d.)

FF 25—Constitutional Convention Preparatory Seminar (n.d.)

FF 26—Council at Large: City Government (n.d.)

FF 27—Council on Aging: Employment & Training Program (n.d.)
Box 3  Speeches (1971-1994, n.d.) continued

FF 28—Do You Have the Strength? (n.d.)

FF 29—Dr. Martin Luther King Event (n.d.)

FF 30—Drug Abuse (n.d.)

Box 4  FF 1—Increased Political Involvement (n.d.)

FF 2—Installation: Scotlandville Jaycees (n.d.)

FF 3—Introduction to New Orleans (n.d.)
- Includes newspaper clipping from unidentified newspaper

FF 4—Legislature Notes (n.d.)

FF 5—Legislature Reapportionment (n.d.)

FF 6—Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness (n.d.)

FF 7—Martin Luther King: The Non-Violent Crusader (n.d.)

FF 8—Media Concerns (n.d.)

FF 9—National Association of Regional Councils (n.d.)

FF 10—National Association of Social Workers (n.d.)

FF 11—National Political Congress on Black Women (n.d.)

FF 12—National Postal Mailhandlers: Union Retirement Banquet (n.d.)

FF 13—Newly Elected State Legislator (n.d.)

FF 14—NSA: New Freedom Bill (n.d.)

FF 15—Political Involvement Movement for Humanity (n.d.)

FF 16—Politics as a Means of Change (n.d.)

FF 17—Prison Reform: Angola (n.d.)

FF 18—Prison Reform: Methodist Group (n.d.)
Box 4  Speeches (1971-1994, n.d.) continued

FF 19—Racism (n.d.)

FF 20—Re-Election Campaign Announcement (n.d.)

FF 21—Staying in School (n.d.)

FF 22—The Black Woman’s Role in Today’s Society (n.d.)

FF 23—The Christian Woman Serving in Today’s World (n.d.)

FF 24—The Importance of Black Involvement in City Government (n.d.)

FF 25—The Nature of a True Volunteer (n.d.)

FF 26—The Non-Traditional Woman (n.d.)

FF 27—Voter Registration (n.d.)

FF 28—Women: Your Place, Your Power, Your Vote, 1920 to the Present (n.d.)

FF 29—Women for Edwin Edwards (n.d.)

FF 30—Women in Politics (n.d.)

FF 31—Women Speech (n.d.)

FF 32—Women’s Professional Council (n.d.)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Certificate-Member, La. Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Plaque-Outstanding Service in the La. Legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Certificate-Outstanding Achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Plaque-Appreciation from Regional Planning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Plaque-Top Ladies of Distinction</td>
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**Box 1  FF 15—Bio Sketches/Obituaries (2000, n.d.)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Press release from Mayor’s office on death of Dorothy Mae Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Newspaper clipping on Taylor’s death, <em>The Times Picayune</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Obituary, <em>The Times Picayune</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Biographical sketches of Dorothy Mae Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>Obituary for Taylor, unidentified Newspaper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- Contains original clippings of bio-sketches documenting Taylor’s political career. Also includes a clipping of her obituary.
Index Terms
Barthelemy, Sidney
Taylor, Dorothy Mae (1928-2000)

New Orleans (La.)—History—20th century

Mardi Gras (New Orleans, La.)

Advertising, political—Louisiana—New Orleans
African American women legislators—Louisiana—New Orleans
African American politicians—Louisiana—New Orleans
African American women civil rights workers—La.—New Orleans—Political activity
African American women political activists—Louisiana—New Orleans
Blacks—Louisiana—New Orleans—Politics and government
Blacks—Segregation—Social aspects—Louisiana—New Orleans
Campaign paraphernalia—Louisiana—New Orleans
City councils—Louisiana—New Orleans—History—20th century
Elections—Statistics—Louisiana—New Orleans
Local elections—Louisiana—New Orleans
Political campaigns—Louisiana—New Orleans
Politics and culture—Louisiana—New Orleans—History—20th century
Race discrimination—Louisiana—New Orleans
Race relations—Political aspects—Louisiana—New Orleans
Segregation—Political aspects—Louisiana—New Orleans
Occasional speeches—Louisiana—New Orleans
Political oratory—Louisiana—New Orleans
Women city council members—Louisiana—New Orleans
Women political candidates—Louisiana—New Orleans

New Orleans (La.)—Politics and government—20th century

Genre
Advertising campaigns
Articles
Awards
Black-and-white photographs
Ceremonies
Certificates
Clippings
Color photographs
Color slides
Copy prints
Correspondence
Election returns
Elections
Genre continued

Forms (documents)
Newspapers
Obituaries
Photo CDs
Plaques (flat objects)
Political campaigns
Printed ephemera
Reports
Shopping bags
Slides (photographs)
Speeches