

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES**

**Guide to the Papers of**

**James P. Gleason  
1962-1978**

**Record Group 17: Personal Papers**

**January 23, 2018**

Montgomery County Archives  
Montgomery County Records Center  
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## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

James P. Gleason was a Montgomery County Council Member and County Executive. He attended Georgetown University and earned his law degree in 1950. In 1951, he served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Richard Nixon. He also served as an Assistant Administrator in charge of congressional relations for NASA from 1958 to 1961, at which time he began practicing law. In 1964, he ran for the U.S. Senate. He was also involved in planning the Metro System and became Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in 1968. That same year, he was appointed to the Montgomery County Council. Gleason became Montgomery County's first County Executive in 1970 and served two terms in that position.

## **EXTENT**

1.5 cubic feet: 1 record box, 1 letter-size Hollinger box, oversized material

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These personal papers of James P. Gleason primarily comprise newspaper articles and clippings pertaining to his time as a Montgomery County Council Member and County Executive with additional coverage of his activities related to highways and transit. The collection also includes campaign materials including brochures and flyers, rosters and supporter information, and correspondence. The bulk of the materials are from the late 1960s through 1978, when Gleason left office as County Executive.

Material in the collection includes newspaper clippings and articles, campaign literature, member rosters and lists from various Montgomery County organizations, biographical information on Gleason, and documents related to his campaign activities and appearances.

The records have been arranged into 6 series:

- Series I: Pre-Council Years
- Series II: Special Issues
- Series III: County Council Years
- Series IV: County Executive Campaigns
- Series V: County Executive Years
- Series VI: Miscellaneous Personal Papers

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I: Pre-Council Years, 1962-1967**

**(0.125 cubic foot)**

This series contains news clippings and documents related to Gleason's work on the Save Takoma Park Committee, as a delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention, and as a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1964. The series is arranged in chronological order by year.

### **Series II: Special Issues, 1962-1971**

**(0.125 cubic feet)**

This series contains newspaper clippings on the issues of drug use, freeways and transit, and gun control. The newspaper clippings in this series were generally organized by these issues when received and span multiple years, from Gleason's pre-council years to his time as County

Executive. The series also includes additional materials related to freeways and transit, such as testimony, informational brochures and flyers, and handwritten notes. The series is arranged in chronological order by year.

**Series III: County Council Years, 1967-1970**  
**(0.75 cubic feet)**

This series contains newspaper clippings related to Gleason's appointment to the Montgomery County Council and his work as a councilmember. It also includes clippings and articles related to Gleason's decision to run for County Executive. The series is arranged in chronological order by year.

**Series IV: County Executive Campaigns, 1970, 1974**  
**(0.25 cubic feet)**

This series contains documents related to Gleason's campaigns for County Executive in 1970 and again in 1974. It includes correspondence related to the campaign, such as letters of support and campaign volunteers, invitations for appearances and debates, campaign literature, and biographical information on Gleason. The series also includes campaign materials from other candidates and races. This series is in chronological order by year.

**Series V: County Executive Years, 1970-1978**  
**(0.125 cubic feet)**

This series contains primarily news clippings from Gleason's eight years as Montgomery County Executive, including clippings related to his election campaigns. The bulk of the articles are from his first term as County Executive. The series also includes an invitation and program from Gleason's inaugural ceremonies, a keynote address Gleason gave to the Maryland Association of Counties in 1972, and informational materials on the County Board of Appeals. This series is in chronological order by year.

**Series VI: Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1964, 1969-1972, 1992, 1998, 2008**  
**(0.125 cubic feet)**

This series contains documents related to Gleason's appointment as an Administrative Judge for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel as well as miscellaneous personal correspondence and cards and a copy of his obituary. This series is in chronological order by year.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open for research. Some material is restricted because it contains personally identifiable information or discusses topics that are confidential. Folders that contain restricted material are marked as such in the finding aid and will not be served to researchers. Please contact the archivist with questions about restricted material in this collection

**LANGUAGE**

English.

**PROVENANCE**

This material was transferred from the Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections in 2017, accession #2018-01.

### **RELATED MATERIALS**

For other material related to the career of James Gleason, see the following collections:

Record Group 1: County Executive

**Records of the County Executive**, Series I: James P. Gleason

Record Group 10: Department of Transportation

**WMATA**

Record Group 16: Oral Histories

**Oral History of James Gleason, 1987**

### **USING THESE RECORDS**

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 17, **Papers of James P. Gleason**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 17: Personal Papers.

Records Title: Papers of James P. Gleason. Series number and series name. Subseries number and subseries name, if applicable. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

### **PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

Oversized documents and photographs were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets were inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere.

Preservation copying of newspaper clippings was performed whenever feasible. Records in folders were arranged, unless otherwise indicated, in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

### **USING THESE RECORDS**

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 17, **James Gleason Papers**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 17: Personal Papers.

Records Title: James Gleason Papers. Series number and series name. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

### **PROCESSING STAFF**

Claire McDonald

### **FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Claire McDonald

Sarah Hedlund

**BOX INVENTORY**

**Series I: Pre-Council Years, 1962-1967**

**Box 1**

Committees and Commissions, 1962-1967  
U.S. Senate Campaign, 1964

**Series II: Special Issues, 1962-1971**

*(Box 1, cont.)*

Freeway and Transit: News Clippings, 1962-1971 (3 Folders)  
Freeway and Transit: Other Materials, 1964-1966  
Gun Control, 1968-1970  
Drug Use, 1969-1971

**Series III: County Council Years, 1967-1970**

*(Box 1, cont.)*

Appointment to County Council, 1967-1968  
News Articles and Clippings, 1968-1970 (10 Folders)

**Series IV: County Executive Campaigns, 1970, 1974**

**Box 2**

Campaign Correspondence, 1970 [RESTRICTED]  
Directories and Supporters, 1970  
Campaign Events and Appearances, 1970, 1974  
Campaign Materials, 1970, 1974  
Miscellaneous Campaign Materials (Not Gleason), 1970, 1974

**Series V: County Executive Years, 1970-1978**

*(Box 2, cont.)*

News Articles and Clippings, 1970-1978 (2 Folders)  
Special Events, 1970, 1974  
County Board of Appeals Information, 1971-1973  
Keynote Address, Maryland Association of Counties, 1972

**Series VI: Miscellaneous Personal Papers, 1964, 1969-1972, 1992, 1998, 2008**

*(Box 2, cont.)*

Administrative Judge Appointment, 1992, 1998  
Correspondence, 1964, 1969-1972, n.d.  
Obituary, 2008