

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SIXTH ILLINOIS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

December 8, 1969-September 3, 1970

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Illinois Constitution of 1970 was adopted by the Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention on September 3, 1970 and approved by voters at a special election on December 15, 1970. It represented the first major change in Illinois' basic legal structure in a century. Although most of its provisions took effect July 1, 1971, important questions about its provisions continue to be addressed in the courts and the General Assembly on a frequent basis.

The Convention was responsible for keeping and publishing a record of its proceedings, contained in the seven-volume, 8,800-page, *Record of Proceedings, Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention, December 8, 1969 - September 3, 1970*, which was published by the Illinois Secretary of State in 1972.

About this CD

More than 30 years after Convention proceedings were first published, this CD applies modern digitization and computer techniques to assist scholars in researching, understanding, and interpreting our Constitution.

This CD contains the full text of the *Record of Proceedings, Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention*, along with several additional documents to aid in researching the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

The *Record of Proceedings* can be searched three ways:

- By searching the full-text of all volumes for any desired word or phrase.
- By using the Table of Contents or Index for a particular volume, which contains hyperlinks to the pages cited.

Volume I (Daily Journals) has its own Table of Contents and Index and is separately paginated. Volumes II through V (Verbatim Transcripts) share a comprehensive Table of Contents, Index, and continuous pagination. Volumes VI and VII (Committee and Member Proposals) also share a comprehensive Table of Contents, and continuous pagination, but neither has an index.

- By using the Constitution article and section index prepared by Mary Redmond, formerly Information Services Coordinator, Illinois State Library, for convention proceedings Volumes II through V (Verbatim Transcripts). It cites to the first, second, and third readings of each section, and has a hyperlink for each action to the page of the debate.

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Additional resources on this CD include:

- The Illinois General Assembly Legislative Research Unit's *1970 Illinois Constitution Annotated for Legislators*, Fourth Edition, first published in 1996, and updated in 2005. It includes the text of the 1970 Constitution as amended to 2004 and commentary describing relevant court decisions, laws, and Attorney General's opinions. It contains a detailed index.
- The Illinois Secretary of State's *Proposed 1970 Constitution for the State of Illinois, Official Text With Explanation*. This often-overlooked document contains the convention's explanation of what it proposed and why, including whether each section was based on the 1870 Constitution or differed from it. It also contains transition and adoption schedules. The ballot presented to voters five questions: approval of the proposed Constitution; election of 177 House members from multi-member districts by cumulative voting or from single-member districts; election of judges or appointment of judges by the Governor; abolition of the death penalty; and lowering the voting age to 18.
- *The 1970 Illinois Constitution: The First Two Decades - A Selected Bibliography*, compiled by Ann Lousin, Professor of Law at The John Marshall Law School, reprinted with permission from *Northern Illinois University Law Review*, vol. 8, no. 3 (1988), pp. 845-904. It cites books, articles, and Attorney General's opinions, organized by article and section of the Constitution.
- *A Bibliography for the Illinois Constitution of 1970: Annotated - A Selected List*, compiled by Cheryl Goza Smith, Library Specialist, Reference Department of the Illinois State Library, December 2004.

Credits and Acknowledgments

Production of this CD was undertaken by the Legislative Research Unit at the request of Courtney Nottage, Chief of Staff, on behalf of Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. Distribution to public and academic libraries in the state was made possible by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White.

In digitizing convention proceedings, the project goal was to produce an easy-to-use, hyperlinked CD, of manageable size, at a reasonable price. Digitizing documents in 2005 is relatively easy because the source material starts in electronic format. Digitizing convention proceedings from 1972 presented several problems that had to be overcome: indices and tables of contents in the volumes were of limited use for research; numerous typographical errors; pagination errors; difficulty of scanning strikethrus and underlining; and need for hyperlinking the "Mary Redmond Index"—organized by Constitution article and section—which researchers have been using for nearly 20 years.

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Several people provided comments and suggestions that were most helpful in exploring and refining different approaches: Marty Brenner of the Illinois State Historical Library; Susan Krause of the Lincoln Legal Papers Project; Tim Rice, Executive Director of the Illinois General Assembly's Legislative Information System; Alan Harling, Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. consultant to the Legislative Information System; and Brenda Larison, Director, Illinois Supreme Court Library. Special thanks is owed to Illinois State Library Staff: Michael P. Ragen, Acting Director and Chief Deputy Director; Joseph A. Natale, Fund Resource Coordinator; and Alyce Scott, Digital Imaging Program Manager.

Digitization of convention proceedings was funded by an appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly to the Legislative Research Unit. Optical scanning, hyperlinking, and production of the finished CDs were done by Com Microfilm of Springfield, Illinois. Craig Williams, CEO, and Mike Sullivan of Com Microfilm Company devoted much effort to the project and continually overcame obstacles as they developed.

The Legislative Research Unit project team included: Robert L. Bayless, Senior Staff Scientist and Computer Systems Administrator; Bridget Devlin, Associate Director; Jennifer Ehlers, Clerical Supervisor; Dianna Jones, Graphic Artist; Taran Ley, Head Librarian; David R. Miller, Deputy Director for Research; and Patrick O'Grady, Executive Director. Additional production support was provided by: Melissa Cate, Sarah Franklin, Amanda Gruber, Jessica Handy, Kathleen Hazelwood, Kevin Jones, Rachel Link, Renee Lonergan, Sonya McCreight, Jamie Mitchell, and Jennifer Moyer.

On-Line Availability

In addition to its availability at public libraries, the contents of this CD may be used or downloaded free of charge from the Illinois General Assembly's Web site. At the time of production, the address of that site was:

<http://www.ilga.gov/>

Accuracy of Contents

The constitutional convention proceedings stored in this CD were created by optically scanning the printed source documents and hyperlinking them for ease of use. There are some misspellings or other errors in the original documents, which the CD attempts to compensate for through proofing and sensitive hyperlinking, but no attempt has been made to correct errors in the original documents. Each hyperlinked page is an unchanged photocopy of the original.

Software

Adobe® Reader® software, available free, is required to view, print, and search the PDF files on this CD. This software is available for download—for a variety of platforms and devices—from the following location (requires an Internet connection):

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>

Begin Research

Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention
Record of Proceedings

SEARCH by keyword or phrase

SEARCH the article and section index to the verbatim transcripts
(prepared by Mary Redmond)

Volume 1

Daily Journal

Table of Contents Subject Index

Record of Convention activity by calendar day. Includes photos and biographies of delegates; the Convention Enabling Act, Lobbyist Registration Act, and Rules; and Senate district maps.

Volumes 2 - 5

Verbatim Transcripts

Table of Contents Subject Index

Transcripts of floor debate by calendar day. Tables of Contents for Volumes 2 through 5 are identical. The subject index is located in Volume 5.

Volumes 6 - 7

Committee Proposals - Member Proposals

Table of Contents

Volumes 6 and 7 contain committee proposals. Volume 7 also contains 582 member proposals and copies of the Constitution as adopted by the Convention and as approved by the voters. Committee proposals are arranged by committee name and proposal number. Member proposals are in numerical order. Tables of Contents for Volumes 6 and 7 are identical. These volumes have no index.

Other resources (as described in the Introduction)