



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Records of Qualifications (Oaths of Office)

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Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Records of Qualifications (Oaths of Office)
Collection No.:	0300.002
Dates:	1858-2004
Quantity:	3.0 Cubic feet (22 volumes)

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Historical note

Oaths of Office for the Mayor and City Council are required by a provision in the City Charter. Oaths for Major Officers and Minor Officers are required by conditions expressed in the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Ordinances of the City of Boston. The major officers include City Clerk, commissioners, heads of departments, commission members, board members, assessors, etc. The minor officers include constables, special police officers, weighers, undertakers, etc. By the twentieth century, the minor officers represented include primarily constables and weighers.

In 1939, the City Clerk requested the School Committee members to swear an oath of office based on Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1927, an act relating to city and town officers. Prior to January 1, 1940, School Committee members were not required to take an oath.

By ordinance passed December 23, 1862, each police officer before entering upon his duties was sworn to the faithful discharge of the duties assigned to him. The records of these oaths were kept in two volumes

by the City Clerk from 1863-1877. In 1878, powers relating to the police were transferred from the Board of Aldermen to the Police Commissioner.

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Scope and Contents note

This collection includes records of oaths sworn by Elected Officials, Major Officers, Minor Officers and Police Officers. The volumes include the oath sworn on the conditions expressed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth and the Ordinances of the City along with the signatures of those taking the oath. The Elected Officials volumes include the Mayor and City Council members. School committee members and the Suffolk County Register of Deeds are included in the 1938-2004 Elected Officials volumes. The Major Officers include the City Clerk, commissioners, department heads, etc. The Minor Officers include constables, special police officers, weighers, etc.

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Related Material

Oaths of City Officers from July of 1850 to January of 1858 are recorded in a City Clerk record book of licenses, etc. See Series #0301.013.

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Series I: Elected Officials (8 volumes)

Volume

1	1865-1874
2	1875-1888
3	1889-1900
4	1901-1937
5	1938-1951
6	1952-1965
7	1966-1978
8	1980-2004

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Series II: Major Officers (3 volumes)

Volume

9	1884-1913
10	1914-1963
11	1964-2000

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Series III: Minor Officers (10 volumes)

Volume

12	1858-1876
13	1876-1878
14	1879-1886
15	1886-1901
16	1902-1916
17	1916-1929
18	1929-1945
19	1945-1968
20	1968-2000

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Series IV: Police (2 volumes)

Volume

21	1863-1866
22	1866-1877

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