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### ***Collection Summary***

**Repository:** Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

**Creator:** Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

**Title:** Ward Election Journals

**Collection Number:** 0300.003

**Accession Number:** 2003.5

**Dates:** 1846-1914

**Volume:** 11 volumes

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

**Related Collections:** Election Records (0300.001); Office of the City Clerk Record Group (0300).

**Access:** Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number and volume when making an appointment.

**Digital Note:** Digitized copies of records from 1846-1874 for Wards 1 – 7 are available online on the [City Clerk's collection guide page](#).

**Conservation Notes:** The earliest records for Wards 1 – 7 were restored and digitized.

**Finding Aid Prepared by:** Sally Fellows, 2011; Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

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### **Historical Note**

The City Clerk is nominated and appointed by the Board of Aldermen as prescribed by state law. Some of the responsibilities of the City Clerk are to preserve the official public documents and records of the City of Manchester; conduct and preserve the integrity of elections; provide administrative and support services to the Legislative body; and meet other regulatory requirements established by law.

### **Collection Description**

The Ward Election Journals were created by each city ward (Ward 1 – Ward 8) during the course of government business, specifically elections. The records document the electoral history of Manchester during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. They are arranged by ward, with each journal's records in chronological order.

Each journal contains handwritten records for ward meetings that were held to elect officials at the city, county, state, and national levels. Positions voted upon include jurors for the county court (starting in 1852), Governor, Railroad Commission, Congressman, Senator, Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, School Committee, and President of the United States. In 1874, the New Hampshire State Legislature required that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen appoint ward officials (moderators, ward clerks, and selectmen) instead of those positions being filled by a vote.

Additionally, official warrants or notices to ward inhabitants are included, along with certification of election results by ward officers. These warrants are transcriptions from the State of New Hampshire which officially and legally informed the public of an upcoming election. Each ward elected a moderator, town clerk (ward clerk), and three selectmen to administer the elections. A list of voters was posted at the ward meeting location ten days prior to an election. Qualifications for voters are not documented.

After each election, the results were transcribed in each journal. Each candidate is listed along with the number of votes they received. Ballots are referred to as tickets.

### **Inventory**

<b>Volume Title</b>
Ward 1: 1846-1874
Ward 1: 1874-1914
Ward 2: 1846-1874
Ward 3: 1846-1874
Ward 4: 1846-1874
Ward 5: 1846-1874
Ward 6: 1846-1874
Ward 6: 1874-1896
Ward 7: 1846-1874
Ward 7: 1874-1914
Ward 8: 1854-1874