

**Records of the Commission on
Congressional Mailing Standards
RG.233.96.CMS
96th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Creator	Franking Commission.
Title	Records of the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards
Date [inclusive]	1979-1980
Extent	7.5 Linear feet (15 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

Pursuant to Public Law 93-191, the bipartisan Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards or the "Franking Commission" has three mandates: (1) to issue regulations governing the proper use of the franking privilege; (2) to provide guidance in connection with mailings; (3) to act as a quasi-judicial body for the disposition of formal complaints against Members of Congress who have allegedly violated franking laws or regulations.

As a result of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 1991, Members are required to submit all mass mailings (unsolicited mailings of 500 or more pieces of the same matter) for an advisory opinion prior to mailing.

The issuance of an advisory opinion is a process; involving telephone and personal consultations with the Member's staff prior to the dispersing of a written advisory. When proposed mailings are submitted to the Commission in draft form, often changes are needed in order to comply with franking standards. Staff routinely points out any problems and suggests the revisions that are necessary for the issuance of a favorable opinion. All material submitted to the Commission is reviewed by both the majority and minority staff before an advisory is issued.

Scope and Contents note

Advisory opinions are issued by franking commission regarding whether Members' proposed mailings comply with franking standards.

Arrangement note

Arranged alphabetically by the name of the Member.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Advisory opinions

Collection Inventory

Advisory opinions (15 archival boxes)