



# **Guide to the Mayor James M. Curley collection**

## **0237.001**

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Boston City Archives

201 Rivermoor St.  
West Roxbury, MA 02132  
[archives@boston.gov](mailto:archives@boston.gov)

URL: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/archives-and-records-management>

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Boston City Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Curley, James Michael, 1874-1958
<b>Title:</b>	Mayor James M. Curley collection
<b>ID:</b>	0237.001
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1912-1977, undated
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 Cubic feet 6 document cases, 4 record cartons, 1 oversize record carton, 1 flat box, 1 film reel case
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical note

James Michael Curley was the 37th Mayor of Boston and served four terms: 1914-1917, 1922-1925, 1930-1933 and 1946-1949. He was born in Boston on November 20, 1874 and attended Boston Public Schools. He entered politics when he was elected as a member of the Common Council for the 1900-1901 term. He married Mary E. Herlihy on June 27, 1906. After his first wife died, he married Gertrude Casey Dennis in 1937. James Michael Curley died on November 12, 1958.

Political Timeline of James Michael Curley	
1900-1901	Member, Boston Common Council
1902-1903	Massachusetts House of Representatives
1904-1909	Boston Board of Alderman
1910-1911	Member, Boston City Council
1911-1919	Member, Sixty-second and Sixty-third Congresses, Twelfth Massachusetts District
1914-1917	Mayor of Boston

1922-1925	Mayor of Boston
1930-1933	Mayor of Boston
1935-1936	Governor of Massachusetts
1943-1945	Member, Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth Congresses, Eleventh Massachusetts District
1945-1949	Mayor of Boston

Source: "Boston's 45 Mayors from John Phillips to Kevin H. White", City Record Office, 1979.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Mayor James M. Curley collection includes materials created by and created about James Michael Curley during his long political career. The collection includes materials pertaining to periods during his time as Mayor of Boston as well as during his tenure as Governor of Massachusetts and as member of the United States House of Representatives. The collection includes correspondence, scrapbooks, speeches, audiovisual materials, writings, and various forms of memorabilia. Included with the memorabilia is a top hat once owned by Mayor Curley, funeral books created after the deaths of his wife and children, mayoral campaign material, and photographs. It is unclear who compiled the collection as it contains materials produced after Mayor Curley's death in 1958.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Mayors -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- Audiotapes
- funeral books
- Boston (Mass.). Office of the Mayor

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## Collection Inventory

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### Audiovisual materials, 1952-1974, undated

Title/Description	Instances
"Mr. Boston:" Six Notable Addresses by the Honorable James M. Curley, 1952 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Flatbox Boxed set of 12" 78rpm discs, includes an 18 page booklet with the text of the addresses.	Box 1
"He Did It for a Friend: Boston Remembers James Michael Curley", 1974 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Reels 16mm film reel	Box 2
James M. Curley reviews the "The Last Hurrah", 1956 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 cassette	Box 3
"Curley Program", undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 cassette	Box 3
"Mr. Boston:" Six Notable Addresses by the Honorable James M. Curley, 1952 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 Cassettes	Box 3

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### Correspondence, 1930-1958, undated

Title/Description	Instances
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Harry S Truman Library documents, undated Box 3

Physical Description: 1 microfilm reel

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This is a microfilm reel sent from the Harry S. Truman Library and labeled as "J.M. Curley file;" however, the contents of documents cannot be verified due to damaged microfilm.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972

Correspondence, 1930-1958, undated Box 9 Folder 1

Controlled Access Headings:

- Roosevelt, James, 1907-1991

Lists of correspondence received, 1956-1957 Box 9 Folder 2

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**Memorabilia, 1907-1974, undated**

**Gubernatorial, 1935-1936**

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual Address of His Excellency James M. Curley, Governor of Massachusetts, 1936 Jan 1	Box 8	
Campaign materials, 1936	Box 9	Folder 3
Dinner tendered to Joseph P. Manning program, 1936 Jun 10	Box 9	Folder 4
Irish American Association invitation, 1935 Dec 4	Box 9	Folder 5
Massachusetts State House guidebook, circa 1935-1936	Box 9	Folder 6

**Mayoral, 1921-1949, undated**

Title/Description	Instances	
A Cordial Welcome from the Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, undated	Box 14	Folder 2
"Bock Gee Hock Leed" , 1924 Dec 23 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item framed piece of wood with description on back, description damaged	Box 6	
Boston Statistics, 1930	Box 9	Folder 7
Campaign materials, 1921,1929,1951	Box 9	Folder 8
Dedication of the Mary E. Curley School program, 1931 Sept 22		

	Box 9	Folder 9-10
James M. Curley, Mayor of the Poor plaque, undated	Box 6	
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item wooden plaque with engraving of the Boston city seal and inscription reading, "James M Curley, Mayor of the Poor"		
Mayor's Engagements, 1949 Jul 1 - 1949 Dec 31	Box 8	
Miscellaneous mayoral paraphernalia, 1922-1946, undated	Box 14	Folder 4
Port of Boston pamphlet, undated	Box 9	Folder 11
Testimonial to the Honorable James M. Curley by Military Order of World War, 30 Dec 1933	Box 6	
City Record, 1932,1949	Box 14	Folder 3

## Personal, 1907-1974

Title/Description	Instances
Funeral books, 1925-1950	
<u>Controlled Access Headings:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>funeral books</li> </ul>	
In Memoriam: City of Boston, In School Committee, 1931 Jan 19	Box 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Volume	
<u>Controlled Access Headings:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931</li> </ul>	
In Memoriam: Dorothea Curley, 1925	Box 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 Volumes	
In Memoriam: Dorothea Curley, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Boston, 1925 Jan 29	Box 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Volume	
In Memoriam: James M. Curley, Jr., 1931	Box 4
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Volume	
<u>Processing Information:</u>	
<b>Processing Information</b>	
This volume contains clippings from various newspapers relating to the death of James Michael Curley, Jr.	
<u>Controlled Access Headings:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931</li> </ul>	
In Memoriam: James M. Curley, Jr., 1931	Box 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Volumes	

Controlled Access Headings:

- Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931

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In Memoriam: James M. Curley, Jr., 12 Jan 1931	Box 5
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Controlled Access Headings:

- Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931

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In Memoriam: Mary Curley Donnelly, Leo Francis Curley, 1950 Feb 11	Box 4
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Physical Description: 1 Volume

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In Memoriam: Mrs. James M. Curley, 1930	Box 4
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In Memoriam: Mrs. James M. Curley, 13 Jun 1930	Box 5
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James M. Curley Jr., 1931	Box 4
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Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Controlled Access Headings:

- Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931

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James M. Curley, Jr., Letters, Vol. I, 1931	Box 5
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Physical Description: 1 Volume

Controlled Access Headings:

- Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931
- Curley, James Michael, 1874-1958
- Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933
- Ely, Joseph B. (Joseph Buell), 1881-1956
- Saltonstall, Leverett, 1892-1979
- Koussevitzky, Serge, 1874-1951
- Fiedler, Arthur, 1894-1979

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James M. Curley, Jr., Letters, Vol. II, 1931	Box 5
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Physical Description: 1 Volume

Controlled Access Headings:

- Curley, James M., Jr., 1907-1931
- Curley, James Michael, 1874-1958

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Miscellaneous, 1907-1957, undated

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Ancestral Arms Curley name history, undated	Box 9	Folder 15
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Apostolic Blessing, 1948 Oct 4	Box 9	Folder 12
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Christmas 1932 telegram, 1932 Dec 27	Box 9	Folder 13
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Controlled Access Headings:

- Pius XII, Pope, 1876-1958

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Closing Proceedings of the Board of Alderman, 1907	Box 6
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Correspondence to Mary Curley, undated	Box 9	Folder 15
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Daily Reminder, Mrs. James M. Curley, 1912	Box 8
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Physical Description: 1 Volume

Dedication of the Fifth Health Unit invitation, 1929 Nov	Box 9	Folder 15
Financial records, 1942-1943	Box 9	Folder 14
Inauguration of the President of the United States invitation, 1941 Jan	Box 9	Folder 15
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945</li> </ul>		
James M. Curley top hat, undated	Box 7	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item black, velvet top hat with James M Curley embossed on inner brim in hat box labelled "Knox, New York"		
Orders, bills, and resolutions passed by James Michael Curley, undated	Box 9	Folder 16
St. Patrick's Church baptismal record for James Curley, 1957 Jun 6	Box 9	Folder 15
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curley, James Michael, 1874-1958</li> </ul>		
The Irish Question, Mary Curley, undated	Box 9	Folder 15
Tribute to a Friend, undated	Box 9	Folder 15
United States of America v. James G. Fuller, Donald Wakefield, and James M. Curley, 1948 Feb 18	Box 9	Folder 17
Mary Curley vital records, 1935, 1942-1943	Box 14	Folder 6
Newspaper clippings, 1930-1972, bulk 1950s	Box 9	Folder 18-19
	Box 10	Folder 1-3
	Box 14	Folder 7
Scrapbooks, 1921-1956, undated		
[Curley family], undated	Box 6	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Volume cover of scrapbook is no longer attached		
A Swing Through America for Roosevelt, 1932	Box 6	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Volume		
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945</li> </ul>		
Newspaper clippings, circa 1921	Box 7	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 Volume		
Newspaper clippings, circa 1921	Box 7	

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Newspaper clippings, 1938 Oct <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	Box 14	Folder 8
Newspaper clippings, 1956 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	Box 14	Folder 9
Awards and certificates, 1929-1942, 1974	Box 14	Folder 5

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## Photographs, 1907-1936, undated

Title/Description	Instances	
Inaugural of Congressman James Michael Curley as Mayor of Boston negative, 1914	Box 10	Folder 4
[James Michael Curley speaking at podium] negative, undated	Box 10	Folder 5
[James Michael Curley with unidentified men], undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 photographs	Box 10	Folder 6
James M. Curley, Jr. framed photograph, circa 1920s <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 framed photograph	Box 8	
Mrs. Governor James M. Curley, circa 1935-1936 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 photographs	Box 10	Folder 6
Photographic plate negatives, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 items metal plate negatives	Box 8	
[Unidentified stable], undated	Box 10	Folder 6
Young James M. Curley, Jr., 1907	Box 10	Folder 6

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## Writings, 1912-1977, undated

### Articles about James Michael Curley, 1930, 1971-1977

Title/Description	Instances	
"A Comparative Study of the Use of Personal Attack on the Perceived Ethos of James M. Curley in the Boston Mayoralty Campaign of 1921 and the Massachusetts Gubernatorial Campaign of 1924", 1971 August	Box 10	Folder 7
American Heritage: The Magazine of History, Vol XXVII, No 5, 1976 Aug	Box 6	

"Broadcasting with Dan Coakley", 1930	Box 14	Folder 10
"James Michael Curley: Boston, the Irish Immigrant, and Politics", 1977 May 10	Box 10	Folder 8

## **Memoir, circa 1956, undated**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Biographical information, undated	Box 10	Folder 9
"The Honorable James M. Curley: Manuscript, Miscellaneous Incidents", circa 1956	Box 10	Folder 10
"Memoirs of James M. Curley", circa 1956	Box 10	Folder 11
"Memoirs of James M. Curley" chapters, circa 1956	Box 10	Folder 12
	Box 11	Folder 1
"Memoirs of James M. Curley" draft, circa 1956	Box 11	Folder 2-3
"Memoirs of James M. Curley" draft, circa 1956	Box 11	Folder 4-5
"Memoirs of James M. Curley" manuscript, circa 1956	Box 12	Folder 1-2
Notes for memoir, undated	Box 12	Folder 3
	Box 14	Folder 11

## **Speeches, 1912-1955, undated**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
A Tribute to Lincoln, 1923 May 4 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item text of speech printed on cardboard poster	Box 6	
Lists of speeches given, undated	Box 12	Folder 5
Speeches, 1912-1955	Box 12	Folder 6
	Box 13	Folder 1-5
	Box 14	Folder 12

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