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**Creator:** Toward A Fair Michigan (organization)  
**Title:** Toward A Fair Michigan records.  
**Inclusive dates:** 2005-2008  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot  
**Call number:** 2009043 Bj 2

**Language:** Material is in English  
**Acquisition:** The record group (Donor no. 10066) was donated by Toward A Fair Michigan on November 18, 2008.  
**Access:** The collection is open without restriction.  
**Digital Material:** A Web site captured on CD-R and a documentary DVD are in the Administrative Files series and DVD recordings of three public forums are in the Organizational Activities series.  
**Copyright:** Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan.  
**Processed By:** Michael J. Shallcross, February 2009

## Abstract

501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization formed in February 2005 to open dialogue and increase citizen participation in the debate surrounding Proposal 2, the ballot initiative that ended affirmative action programs in Michigan and was passed in November 2006; records include correspondence, press coverage, organizational files, and materials relating to public events.

## History

Toward A Fair Michigan (TAFM) was a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization formed in February 2005 in the midst of growing public debate around Proposal 2, a ballot initiative which sought to ban affirmative action and the use of preferences in decisions regarding public employment, education, and contracting. Based in East Lansing, TAFM was co-founded by Dr. William Barclay Allen, former Commissioner of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, and Barbara Grutter, lead plaintiff in the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court case (*Grutter v. Bollinger*) which upheld the University of Michigan Law School's use of affirmative action in its admissions policy.

While both Grutter and Allen favored the enactment of Proposal 2, TAFM sought to rise above partisan politics and further the public's understanding of equal opportunity issues in Michigan by promoting a civil and open exchange of views on affirmative action. To this end, TAFM organized a series of public forums leading up to November 2006 in which proponents and opponents of Proposal 2 debated the important legal and social issues at stake in the election. Other TAFM activities included filing an amicus brief to support the ballot initiative process, publication of resource and reference materials related to affirmative action preferences, and production of the video documentary "Where Do You Stand?"

Following the passage of Proposal 2, TAFM adopted a new programmatic focus with the launch of ANCORE ("A New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity"). In this phase, TAFM also sought to publicize and promote steps taken to implement Proposal 2 and encourage state and local governments to adhere to the letter and spirit of the 2006 election decision. To accomplish these goals, the group conducted a survey of affirmative action-based discrimination in Michigan, monitored compliance with the new amendment, and unsuccessfully petitioned the U.S. District Court to block a constitutional challenge to Proposal 2. In an effort spearheaded by Carol Allen, TAFM also compiled and wrote *Ending Racial Preferences: The Michigan Story* (2008), an account of its genesis and the struggle against affirmative action preferences in Michigan and other states where similar initiatives have been passed. On October 22, 2008, the TAFM board voted to dissolve the corporation and transfer its financial assets to the Center for Individual Rights.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Toward A Fair Michigan records reflect that organization's efforts to promote dialogue on the controversial ballot initiative Proposal 2 and encourage public participation in the political process. In addition to illustrating essential steps in the formation and management of 501(c)(3) nonprofit groups, the records will be especially valuable to those interested in the public debate surrounding Proposal 2 and the issue of affirmative action in the United States in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The **Administrative Files** series consists of documentation central to the formation of TAFM (articles of incorporation, business plan, bylaws, and related records), the organization's history and progress (reports and a Web site capture), and its conduct of business (correspondence, fundraising materials, and meeting minutes). The series also contains TAFM resource and reference publications as well as the video documentary *Where Do You Stand?* (with related materials).

The **Organizational Activities** series documents TAFM's work to educate the citizenry of Michigan on conflicting views of affirmative action and advance its larger mission of expanding the public's well-informed participation in politics. It contains materials relating to TAFM presentations, the ANCORE leadership conference, and the 2007 TAFM affirmative action survey. The largest portion of the series consists of publicity materials, correspondence, and position papers (as well as three DVD recordings) from the series of public forums TAFM sponsored in the run-up to the November 2006 vote on Proposal 2.

**Box No. Description**

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**Administrative Files**

**Box 1**

Articles of Incorporation and Additional Registration, 2005  
Board of Directors, 2005  
Business Plan, 2005  
Bylaws, 2005  
Conflict of Interest Policy, 2005  
Correspondence, 2005-2006 (2 folders)  
Employer Identification Number, 2005  
Fundraising Materials, 2005  
Minutes  
    February 11, 2005  
    March 4, 2005  
    August 10, 2005  
    December 16, 2005  
    March 24, 2006  
    June 21, 2006  
    October 22, 2008  
Press File, 2005-2007  
Publications  
    *Ask the Experts! Questions from TAFM Debates*, 2006  
    *"Creating the Civic Forum to Discuss Affirmative Action Preferences"* brochure, 2005  
    Discussion Guide, ca. 2006  
Reports  
    April 2006  
    July 2006  
    December 2006  
    December 2007  
Video Documentary  
    *Where Do You Stand?*, 2006 (DVD recording)  
    Broadcast Schedule and Correspondence, 2006  
Web Site (<http://www.towardafairmichigan.org>), 2008 (680 MB, Adobe PDFs CD-R; captured on 8/14/2008)

**Organizational Activities**

Affirmative Action Survey, 2007  
ANCORE Leadership Assembly, 2006  
Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, 2005  
Presentation for the Livonia Grumpies, 2006  
Public Forums  
    "A Spirited Discussion on Affirmative Action," 2006  
    Bay de Noc Community College, 2006  
    Central Michigan University, 2006 (includes DVD)  
    Eastern Michigan University, 2006  
    East Lansing ("Should a Free Society Allow Affirmative Action Preferences in Higher Education?"), 2005 (includes DVD)  
    Flint, 2006  
    Grand Valley State University, 2006 (includes DVD)  
    Grosse Pointe, 2006  
    Lake Michigan Community College, 2006

**Box No. Description**

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**Organizational Activities (cont.)**

Public Forums (cont.)

**Box 1 (cont.)**

Lansing (“The Economics of Affirmative Action”), 2005 (includes DVD)  
Lansing, 2006  
Livonia, 2006  
Madison Heights, 2006  
Northern Michigan University, 2006  
Northwood University, 2006  
Oakland University, 2006 (includes invitations for U.S. Senate candidates to participate)  
Traverse City (Michigan Chamber Foundation), 2005  
Wayne State University, 2006  
Program Evaluations, 2005-2006  
Speaker Contacts and Response Forms, 2005-2006