

**South Carolina Political Collections  
University of South Carolina Libraries**

**C. Alex Harvin, III**  
*(1950-2005)*  
**Papers, 1968-2005**

Volume: 23 linear feet

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## **Biographical Note:**

*“Harvin was a true public servant. He worked tirelessly for the people of his beloved Clarendon County. He knew every last person in the district and would be the first person they’d hear from on birthdays, anniversaries, and just about any significant event.”*

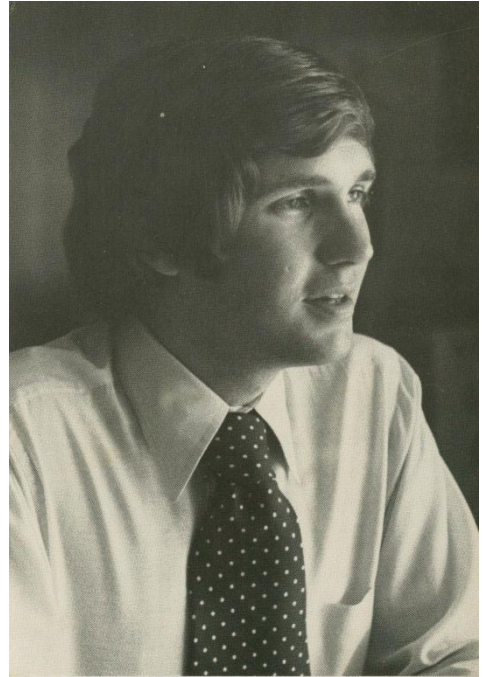
*- State Democratic Party Chairman Joe Erwin, upon Harvin’s death in 2005*

Charles Alexander “Alex” Harvin, III was born in Sumter to Charles Alexander, Jr. and Thomasine Harvin on February 7<sup>th</sup> 1950. He represented District 64 (Clarendon and Williamsburg counties) for 29 years. He attended the Baptist College at Charleston (now Charleston Southern) and graduated from there in 1972 with degree in history and a minor in political science. He then went on to receive a Juris Doctorate from Augusta Law School in 1976. In 1982, he married Cathy Brand and they had one daughter, Mary Franklin.

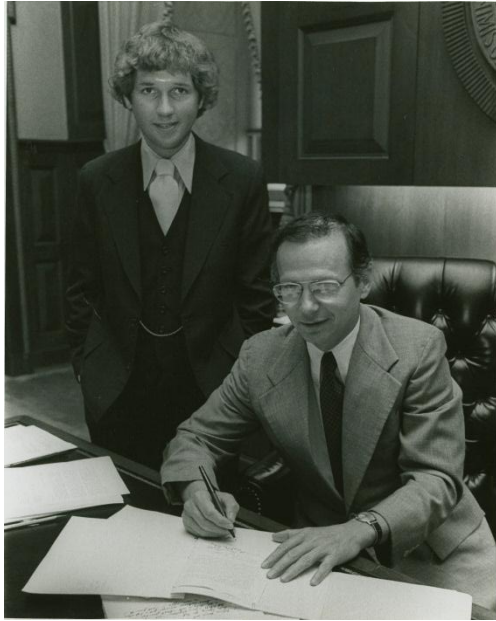
Harvin’s political career began at Baptist College as president of the Young Democrats from 1970 until 1972. He also served as a member of the South Carolina Young Democrats Executive Committee and was Chairman of the Sixth Congressional District Young Democrats from 1975 to 1976.

He was first elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1976, just a few days before receiving his law degree. In December 2004, he said of his first election, “I never thought I could do it. Just look at the number of people who have retired, who have been defeated or who have died. Just look at all the changes that have gone through. When I got there, I had to pinch myself to make sure I was there.” In 15 elections, only once did he face opposition.

His 29 years of service made him the longest continuously serving state representative. During his time in office, he held many leadership positions. From 1979 until 1982 he was the Majority Whip and in 1982, he became Majority Leader. He served in that position until 1986. From that time on, he was the Majority Leader Emeritus. Also, he served as the vice chairman of the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee, the Joint Agriculture Study Committee, and the National Conference of State Legislators Labor, Commerce, & Economic Development Committee. While a Representative, one of the issues that Harvin was dedicated to was education. He served on the Board of Visitors for Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and Charleston Southern. He also served on the House Subcommittee on Higher Education.



*Harvin in 1976 – Campaign Postcard*



*Harvin with Governor Riley as he signs a bill sponsored by Harvin – c. 1979*

Harvin was also active in the State Democratic Party, serving as vice chairman from 1976 until 1978. He served as chairman of the Clarendon County Democratic Party from 1979 until his death. In 1984, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

He received many honors during his tenure in office. In 1977, he was named “Freshman Legislator of the Year” by the University of South Carolina Young Democrats. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the SC Democratic Party in 1981. On July 11, 2005, Governor Mark Sanford presented Harvin with the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor.

On October 11, 2005, Harvin died after a long illness at the age of 55. Upon his death, Congressman James Clyburn said, “Alex was a great friend to me, the people of Clarendon County and every South Carolinian. Alex never met a stranger or a person he wasn’t willing to help. His compassion for others and his abiding commitment to this state were the hallmarks of his public service. Alex’s presences always loomed larger than his stature and his loss has left a void that will be difficult to fill.” As he became increasingly ill, Harvin’s request was that Cathy take over his seat. In a special Democratic primary on January 3, 2006, Cathy won with 85% of the vote. She ran unopposed in the special election, and officially took over his seat on February 14, 2006.



*Harvin with his daughter, Mary Franklin, in the chamber of the S.C. State House - 1992*

## **Scope and Content Note:**

The Alex Harvin papers consist of 23 linear feet divided into six series. The material mostly dates from 1976 to 1999. The series are Administrative Papers, Public Papers, Personal Papers, Speeches, Audiovisual Material, and Clippings.

The **Administrative** series contains press releases sent out by the office and some inter-office memos. There are also invitations to various events that Harvin attended throughout his 29 years of service. Also of note are 6 appointment books from 1978 to 1983 that have handwritten meetings and notes by Harvin.

**Public** papers make up the largest series of the collection with roughly 16 linear feet of material. These papers contain material relating to Harvin's legislative efforts. The General Assembly files contain documents regarding Harvin's work on the Ways and Means Committee, as well as his many legislative efforts while in office. Arranged in alphabetical order, these topics also reflect Harvin's special interest in education, health, and transportation.

The majority of the **Personal** papers relate to the Democratic Party and memberships in various organizations. Also present are papers from Harvin's campaigns in 1994 and 1996. There are also materials relating to Harvin's personal life and family.

The **Speeches** series includes speeches that Harvin gave at various events as well as speeches given by other people. This is the smallest series of the collection and it is arranged chronologically.

**Audiovisual** material includes 14 video tapes dating from 1987 to 1991 and photographs from 1977 to 1999. The videos include appearances on *Capitol View* and lectures to a class at Coastal Carolina University. Photographs include portraits, group shots, and family photos.

**Clippings** are arranged topically and include columns by Harvin for The Clarendon Chronicle and The Manning Times. Also included are clippings relating to campaigns and Harvin's family.

## **Box List:**

### **Administrative:**

General

Appointment Books (6):

1978

1979

**Box 1**

1980

1981

1982

1983

Invitations:

1976-1979

1980

1981

1982-1984

1985-1988

1989

1990-1994

1995

1996

1997-1998

n.d.

Press Releases:

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989-1994

1996

1998, n.d.

Schedules

**Public:**

General

Correspondence

**Topical Files:**

Agriculture:

General:

1967-1985

**Box 2**

1986-1997, n.d.

Agribusiness

Agriculture Property Tax

Agriculture Study Committee:

1978-1986

1987-1992, n.d.

Bills

Cotton

Dairy

Emergency Disaster Assistance

Farming:

General

Farm Bureau

Hog Farms

Tobacco

Report to Legislative Committee to Study the Programs and Problems of  
Agriculture

Animals:

General

Euthanasia:

General

Humane Death Bill

Welfare

Arts

Banking:

General

Interest Rates

Interstate Banking Legislation

Usury Correspondence, 1979

Charities

**Box 3**

Children:

General

Adoption/Foster Care

Child Care

Special Needs

Youth

Civil Rights

Commerce:

General

1995 Capital Investment Report  
Service Station Dealers Association

Trade:

General  
International  
Textiles

Confederate Flag

Cultural Affairs

District of Columbia Statehood

Education:

General:

1980-1988  
1989-1999, n.d.

Adult Education

Governor's School

Higher:

General  
Budget Cuts  
Commission Higher Education:  
General  
Subcommittee on Higher Education (2)

Funding

Institutions:

General  
Baptist College at Charleston/Charleston Southern  
Citadel:

General  
Co-Education Issue

Clemson:

General  
Board of Trustees  
Outdoor Laboratory  
Coastal Carolina University  
Medical University of South Carolina  
South Carolina State University

Technical:

General

Sumter Area Technical College  
Williamsburg Technical College

**Box 4**

University of South Carolina  
University of South Carolina Sumter

Home School

Kindergarten, Mandatory

Public:

General:

1977-1989

1991-1999, n.d.

Accountability Act of 1996

Bus System

Counties:

Clarendon:

General

District 1:

1977-1988

1989-1998, n.d.

District 2

District 3

Williamsburg

Evolution/Creationism

Funding:

General

Education Finance Act (EFA), 1991

Education Improvement Act:

General

EIA Act 1984

EIA Act 1988

Parenting Class

Reading Recovery

School Insurance

School Prayer

Teachers:

General

Retirement

Testing

South Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

Elections:

General

**Box 5**

Ethics

Political Parties:

General

S.C. Democratic Party Task Force on Full Participation

Redistricting:

1981-1991

1992, 1994

Voting:

General

Absentee Ballots

Polling Places

Registration

Energy:

General

Alternatives

Conservation

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

Oil and Gas:

General

Storage

Nuclear:

General

Barnwell:

1981-1992

1993-1996, n.d.

Savannah River Site

Weapons

Environment:

General (2)

Reports

Toxic Use Reduction

Union Camp

Varnco, Inc.

Waste:

General

GSX/Pinewood:

General

Closing

DHEC Monitoring Strategy, 1986

Legislation  
Study, 1985  
Study, 1986 (2)

Safety  
Hazardous Waste:  
General  
Bills  
Solid Waste

**Box 6**

Ethics Legislation

Foreign Affairs:

General  
Barbados  
China

Russia:

General  
Briefing Packet (3)

South Africa

Gambling:

General  
Lottery  
Video Poker:

General  
Correspondence:  
Against  
For

General Assembly:

General:  
1977-1982  
1983-1986  
1987-1993  
1994-1998, n.d.

Budget:

General:  
1978-1983  
1984-1986

1897-1992  
1993-1996, n.d.

**Box 7**

Legislation:

1981-1986

1987-1997

Recommendations:

1980-1987

1988-1990

1991-1993

1994-1999

Committees:

General:

1980-1985

1986-1989

1990-1993, 1999, n.d.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs):

1977-1985

1987-1998, n.d.

Education and Public Works

Judiciary

Labor, Commerce and Industry:

General

Agendas:

1985-1989

1990-1994

Legislation:

1981, 1986-1991

1994:

Feb.-Apr.

May, n.d.

**Box 8**

Subcommittees:

Banking and Consumer Affairs

Insurance:

General:

1987- Jan. 1988

Feb. 1988- Mar. 1988

Apr. 1988- 1994, n.d.

Life, Accident and Health Insurance:

1989-1990

1991-1994

Property and Casualty Insurance:

1988-1989

1990-1994

National Association of Insurance Commissioners

Accreditation Special

Workers' Compensation bill, S. 540

Operation and Management, 1978

Rules Committee

Ways and Means:

General (2)

Agendas:

1983-1985

1986-1998, n.d.

Subcommittee:

Economic Development, Capital Improvement and Other

Taxes

Commissions:

Aeronautics

Health and Human Services Finance

Old Exchange Building

Public Service

Real Estate

S.C. Bicentennial

State Human Affairs

State Reorganization

**Box 9**

Legislation:

Reports:

General:

1977-1978

1979

1980-1981

1982-1983

1984

1985

1986

1987-1988

1989 and n.d.

Digest:

1989 revised through Feb.

1989 revised through March

Post Session Reports:

1987

1989

1991

Recognitions:

1980-1991

1992-1998, n.d.

Reports:

1985, House Democratic Caucus

1988, March: Legislative Council Audit

1993:

February 10: Social Health and Correctional Agencies Orientation  
Briefing to S.C. General Assembly

March: A Limited Scope Review of Long Term Care and Related  
Services for the Elderly

December: A Performance Audit of S.C. State Government "The  
Time Is Now"

1996, Preliminary Report, Compliance Review Committee for a **Box 10**  
Performance Audit of the S.C. Resources Authority Infrastructure  
Funding Program

Restructuring

State of the State Address:

1980

1986

1989

State Student Legislation

Health:

General:

1980-1985

1986-2004, n.d.

Cancer

Comprehensive Health Education

Death with Dignity

Dental

Disabilities:

General

Deaf/Blind

Mental Health:

General

Dept. of Mental Health

Insurance

Legislation:

1977-1984

1985-1997, n.d.

Mental Health Association

Healthcare Facilities:

General

Nursing Homes

Family Planning

Insurance:

General

Dental

Fraud

Freedom of Choice

Legislation:

1983-1993

1994-1998, n.d.

Medicaid/Medicare:

General

Nursing Homes

Small Employer Health Insurance

Legislation:

General:

1977-1985

1986-1999, n.d.

Children

Chiropractors

Licensing

Malpractice

Senior Citizens

Teen Pregnancy

Historic Preservation:

General:

1979-1985

1986-1997

Cemetery Preservation

Housing:

General

**Box 11**

Home Builders  
Landlord/Tenant Act  
Low-Income Housing  
Mobile Homes  
Property Rights  
Santee Cooper Lease Lots

Hurricane Hugo

Insurance:

General:

1978-1989

1990-1997

Captive

Federal Crime

Fire

Fraud

Law Enforcement Officers

Life

Reinsurance:

General

Committees:

General:

1978-1990

1991

Board of Governors:

1990-1991

1992

Investment and Finance Committee Meeting

Facility Operating Committee:

General—1992-1997 and n.d.

Minutes

Subcommittee A and B

John C. Land Landing

Judiciary:

General (2)

Courts:

Appeals

Circuit

Family

Magistrate

**Box 12**

Probate  
    Public Defenders  
    Tort Reform  
Labor/Industry:  
    General  
    Development:  
        General  
        Rural:  
            General  
            Rural Development Act  
            Wateree Community Action  
    Urban  
    Disabled Employees  
    Enterprise Zone Employment and Development Act, 1988 and 1995  
    Funeral Directors  
    Jewelry Sellers  
    Licensing:  
        General  
        Cosmetology  
        Social Work  
    National Federation of Independent Businesses  
    Private Personnel Placement Services Act  
    Real Estate  
  
    State Employees:  
        General  
        Payroll  
        Retirement  
    Textiles  
    Unemployment  
    Unions  
    Workers' Compensation:  
        General  
        Bills  
            1981-1988  
            1989-1998, n.d.  
        Workers' Compensation Commission  
        Workers' Compensation Fund  
  
Law and Order:  
    General

**Box 13**

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Crime Prevention Bill  
Death Penalty  
Domestic Violence  
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    General  
    Alcohol:  
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        Drunk Driving  
        Tax  
    Illegal Drugs:  
        General  
        Trafficking  
    Tobacco  
Gun Control  
Juvenile Detention Centers  
Juvenile Justice Reform Bill  
Obscenity  
Omnibus Crime Bill  
Prisons:  
    General:  
        1980-1986  
        1987-1999, n.d.  
    Construction  
    Overcrowding  
  
Parole  
Public Safety:  
    General  
    EMS  
    Fire:  
        General  
        Arson Control Bill 1984  
        Fire Safety  
        Fireworks  
    Legislation:  
        1980-1990  
        1991-1994, n.d.  
    South Carolina Fire Academy

**Box 14**

Police:

General

Salaries

SLED (State Law Enforcement Division)

Victims' Rights

Libraries

Military:

General

National Guard

Veterans:

General

Memorial

Natural Resources:

General

Forestry:

General

Forestry Commission

Land Management

Mining

Water:

General

Beachfront Management

Cooper River:

General

May 24, 1978: H. 4129

June 10, 1978: H. 4129 Public Hearing

Drought

Lake Marion:

General

Assessment, 1980

Pocotaligo Swamp

Stump Free Channels

Taw Caw Creek:

General

Application, 1985

Wetlands

Patronage

Parks, Recreation, Tourism:

General

**Box 15**

Parks:

- General
- Funding
- Summerton Mini Park
- Taw Caw Park
- Tourism

Postal Service:

- General
- Closings:

- Rimini
- Wilson

Public Utilities:

- General
- Electricity:
  - General
  - Co-Op Legislation
- Natural Gas
- Telecommunications
- Water and Sewage

Senior Citizens

Social Services:

- General:
  - 1978-Mar. 1986
  - Aug. 1986-1996, n.d.

Welfare

South Carolina Aquarium

South Carolina ETV

South Carolina Local Governments:

Counties:

- General
- Clarendon:
  - General:
    - 1979-1987
    - 1988-1992
    - 1993-1998, n.d.
  - Bicentennial
  - Conservation Board
  - Development Board:
    - General

Meetings  
Development Grant:  
1979  
1980  
1984

Map  
Recreation Department  
Striped Bass Festival

Towns:

Kingstree  
Manning  
Paxville  
Summerton:  
1981-1990  
1991-1999, n.d.

Turbeville

Williamsburg

Santee Cooper

Santee Lynches Regional Council of Governments

Wateree Community Action

South Carolina Port Authority

South Carolina Public Service Authority:

General

Santee Cooper:

General

“Economic and Fiscal Impact of Sale of P.S.A.”

Taxes:

General:

1977-1984

1985-1989

1990-1998, n.d.

Accommodations

Income

Local Government Finance

Merchant Inventory

Property:

1977-1983

1984-1995

1996-1997, n.d.

Sales:

1979-1984

1985-1999, n.d.

Tax Reform Act of 1986

Transportation:

General (2)

Airports

Automobiles:

General

Insurance:

General:

1977-1985

1986-1988

1989-1991

1992-1994

1996-1997, n.d.

Legislation:

1988-1991

1992-1995

Subcommittee

Motorcycles

Safety:

General

Seatbelt law

Sales

Taxes

Legislation

Railroads

Regional Transportation Authority

Roads:

General

Construction:

1979-1991

1992-1997, n.d.

Funding

Safety:

General

Omnibus Highway Safety Act

Department of Highways:

**Box 18**

General  
Department of Highways Report, 1983

Trucking:

General (2)  
Length and Weight Limits  
Taxes  
Twin-Trailers:  
General  
Bill

Wildlife:

General  
Birds  
Hunting  
License Fees (Hunting and Fishing)

Marine:

General  
Fish:  
General  
Fish Kills  
Dolphins  
Rimini Marine Institute  
Shellfish  
Whales

Women:

General  
Abortion

Equal Rights Amendment  
South Carolina Commission on Women

**Box 19**

**Personal:**

General  
Alex Harvin Boat Landing  
Awards  
Baptist College at Charleston  
Business Ventures  
Campaigns:  
House:  
General  
1994  
1996

Other:

1977-1987

1988-1998

Charitable Organizations

Correspondence:

General:

1979-1986

1987-1998, n.d.

Reelection

Thank you

Democratic Party:

Conventions:

County, 1976-1997, n.d.

National, 1980-1984

State

Elections:

General

Presidential

National

State:

General:

1976-1986

1988-1996, n.d.

Committees

Counties:

General

Clarendon

Sumter, "South Carolina Courant" Newsletter

Fundraising

Leadership

"Repackaging the Democratic Party: An Action Plan"

South Carolina Young Democrats

Family:

Correspondence

C. Alex Harvin, Jr.:

General

Mental Health Association

Cathy Harvin:

General

**Box 20**

Wedding  
Cotton Gin  
Genealogy  
Thomasine Harvin  
House of Representatives:  
General  
House Democratic Caucus:  
General  
Service Support, Proposals  
Memberships:  
General  
The American Council of Young Political Leaders  
Easter Seals  
NAACP  
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)  
General:  
1980-1981  
1981-1989  
1990-1994  
Budget  
International Trade Committee  
Meetings:  
1985  
1986 (2)  
1987  
1988  
1989:  
April  
June  
August  
1990:  
March  
June  
August  
December  
Nominating Committee  
Goals for State-Federal Action  
State Issues  
Study Tour to Japan

**Box 21**

Symposium for Canadian Provincial and U.S. State Legislative Leaders  
Santee Cooper Shrine Club  
South Carolina Confederation of Local History Societies  
South Carolina Hall of Fame:  
    General  
    Dan Bancroft Johnson  
    Dr. Archibald Rutledge  
U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Commission of South Carolina

Nursing Homes:

    General (2)  
    Financial Reports

**Speeches:**

    General

    1979, October 21: Naming Ceremony for Naming Part of US 378 after Rev. Miller H. Millette

    1981, August 17: "How to Help the Family"

    1984, June 1: Graduation Address for Archibald Rutledge Academy Class of 1984

    1985, January 29: Speech to Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives

    1986: Baptist College Remarks

    1987:

        May 29: Graduation Remarks for Clarendon Hall/Summerton

        c. 1987: "Philadelphia was the Mecca in 1787 and will be a Mecca in 1987"

    No Date:

        Creative Awareness Activities

        Democratic Party of Greenville, Democratic Breakfast Club

        Statement in Honor of Rep. Charles L. Griffin, III

        Statement by Harvin at Town Meeting held by Tallon

        Tax Legislation

**Audiovisual:**

    VHS Tapes:

        Barbados Twining SC Ceremony, November 1997

*Capitol View:*

            March 5, 1987

            April 11, 1990

            January 9, 1991

        Cotton Gin Restoration and Dedication, John Blue Festival

        Harvin and Dr. David Smith, TV 43 Myrtle Beach

*Journal*, May 7, 1990

        Lecture for Dr. David Smith's Class, Coastal Carolina University, Fall 1988:

            Morning Class

Afternoon Class

SCETV:

Box 22

1989: Interview at Harvin Home in Summerton, Summer 1989

No Date: Harvin and Ric O'Barry, Dolphin Trainer

*State House Week:*

April 28, 1989

March 1, 1998

WRJA Talk Show, January 1994

Photographs:

General

China, October 1996

Family:

General

C.A. Harvin, Jr.

Persons:

Campbell, Carrol

Dignitaries

Riley, Richard "Dick"

Portraits

**Clippings:**

General

Agriculture

Animal Welfare

Banking

Children

Clarendon County

Columns:

"Legislative Newsletter" – The Clarendon Chronicle

"On the House Side" – The Manning Times

Confederate Flag

Democratic Party

Education:

General

Clarendon County

Elections:

General

1976

1984, Presidential

1994

1996  
Clarendon County  
Reapportionment  
Environment:  
    General  
    GSX  
    Hazardous Waste  
Ethics  
Family:  
    C.A. Harvin, Jr  
    C. A. Harvin, III  
    Cathy Harvin  
  
Foreign Affairs:  
    General  
    South Africa  
Gambling  
General Assembly:  
    General  
    Budget  
    Legislation  
Health  
Housing  
Insurance  
Labor/Industry  
Law and Order:  
    General  
    Gun Control  
    Prisons  
    Public Safety  
    Youth  
Natural Resources:  
    General  
    Forestry  
    Waterways:  
        General  
        Cooper River  
        Taw Caw Creek  
Nuclear:  
    General

**Box 23**

Barnwell

Savannah River Site

South Carolina Hall of Fame

South Carolina Public Service Commission

Taxes

Trade

Transportation:

    General

    Auto Insurance

    Roads

    Trucking

Veterans Memorial

Wildlife