

The Status of Women in North Carolina Politics

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On the Cover: Members of the Equal Suffrage League at Baptist Female University (now Meredith College) in 1918. The U.S. will mark the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in 2020.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Politics is often referred to as the last “glass ceiling.” The 2016 presidential election confirmed that statement as Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton, who most experts thought was the prohibitive favorite after the conventions. This year – 2018 – has been called the “Year of the Woman” in politics because of the increase in women candidates across the country and the power exerted by women voters in 2017 elections in New Jersey and Virginia, as well as their turnout in primaries in 2018.

Women make up 51.4 percent of the population in the state and almost 54 percent of the voters in North Carolina. These demographic data points, as well as female challengers running well against Republican incumbents in the 2nd and 13th congressional districts might make many citizens think women are going to start making headway on the gender disparity that has existed between men and women officeholders.

Although women candidates such as Linda Coleman and Kathy Manning may indeed win their general election matchups against George Holding and Ted Budd, respectively, on November 6, even those victories are not going to change the gender gap of North Carolina politics. Put simply, even though it has been 26 years since 1992, the last “Year of the Woman” in politics, North Carolina remains a male-dominated state in terms of officeholders and candidates, especially in rural parts of the state.

Since the last *Status of Women in North Carolina Politics* report in 2015, women have gained and lost ground in terms of elected and appointed positions. North Carolina has approximately 5,000 elected positions and almost an equal number of appointed positions at the state and local level. Women hold less than a quarter of all elected positions and around a third of all appointed positions. At the elected level, this is a slight decline over 2015.

There are bright spots for women in North Carolina politics:

- Women are serving as mayors of its three largest cities.
- Republican women in the North Carolina legislature are at record levels.
- The percentage of women serving in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is higher than the national average for women serving in those positions.

Despite these positives, there are many aspects to women in North Carolina politics that are negative:

- The percentage of women candidates running in 2018, as compared to 2014, is lower.
- The number of counties in which the board of county commissioners has no women serving has increased from 44 to 46 counties.
- The rural parts of the state, which have been particularly less represented by women in elected office, has lost ground.

This report is meant to be a wakeup call for North Carolina politics. As we strive to be a truly representative democracy, women, who are a majority of the state’s citizens, need a bigger place at the political table.

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

The history of women serving in North Carolina political offices in significant numbers is relatively recent – within the last 30 years. Before the 1980s, women serving in elected offices and prominent appointed offices were rare. This pattern was not unique to North Carolina. The first woman to serve in Congress was Jeannette Rankin of Montana, who was elected in 1917. It was not until the 1980s that women held a full five percent of the seats in Congress on a consistent basis.

Likewise, the first woman elected as a state's governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming, was elected in 1925 to replace her deceased husband. Yet, it wasn't until 1975 that the first woman was elected on her own – Ellen Grasso of Connecticut – instead of as a replacement for her spouse. Even in 2015, 23 states have yet to elect a woman chief executive.

North Carolina's history of electing women to office mirrors that of the nation and, in many ways, the state is typical of the struggle of women, particularly in the Southeast, to achieve a critical mass necessary to fundamentally transform the governing or policy-making processes.

Some of the early pioneers in women's politics in North Carolina came from its mountain counties. Lillian Exum Clement of Asheville was the first woman elected to the General Assembly in 1920, winning her primary contest before the 19th Amendment passed, thus giving women in North Carolina and the nation the right to vote. The first woman elected to a state legislature in the South, Clement became a one-term Democratic member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, where she introduced 17 bills. Like several other women pioneers in elected office, Clement's tenure was very short, as she chose not to run for reelection, in part as a result of marrying E. Eller Stafford in 1921.

Also from Western North Carolina, Jackson County native Gertrude Dills McKee was the first woman elected to the North Carolina Senate in 1930. McKee had a long history of public service before being elected to the General Assembly; she served on the Jackson County Board of Education and the North Carolina Commission on Education, as well as many other civic organizations. McKee served three full terms and was elected to the fourth in 1948, but passed away soon after the election.

At the federal level, Eliza Jane Pratt was the first woman from North Carolina to serve in Congress, winning a special election in 1946 to replace Representative William Burgin, who passed away in office. A Democrat, Pratt had previously worked as a legislative assistant to Burgin, and she chose not to run in the 1946 general election. After serving six months in the House, Pratt returned to administrative assistant positions in the federal government and eventually became the legislative assistant for Representative A. Paul Kitchen from North Carolina's 8th district.

After Pratt ended her short tenure in Congress, it was almost a half century before Eva Clayton was elected to the United States House of Representatives. Clayton, who won a special election to succeed the unexpired term of Walter Jones, Sr., was the first African American elected to represent North Carolina in Congress since Reconstruction and served until 2003. It was during Clayton's tenure in office that other women from North Carolina were elected to Congress.

Republican Elizabeth Dole became the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate from North Carolina, winning election in 2002. She brought a long history of public service into her role as senator, having served as Secretary of

Transportation in the Reagan Administration and Secretary of Labor in the George H.W. Bush administration. In 2008, she lost her reelection bid to Democrat Kay Hagan.

North Carolina became one of 26 states to have a woman governor in 2008, when it elected Democrat Beverly Perdue as the state's chief executive. She succeeded Mike Easley, with whom she served as Lt. Governor for two terms. In serving in the state's executive branch, Perdue joined seven other women who have served in a variety of Council of State positions. It was Elaine Marshall who became the first woman elected statewide to a Council of State position when she beat Richard Petty in 1996 and won the Secretary of State position, where she still serves.

BEVERLY PERDUE

Former Governor of North Carolina (2009-2013)



The first woman to serve as North Carolina's governor, Beverly Perdue hardly considers herself a trailblazer for women. "I came along in the 1980s," Perdue stated, "but many other women preceded me. They fought for the right to vote, choice, and many other issues that some

take for granted today."

One woman who was both a trailblazer and mentor to the former governor was Ruth Easterling, who was first elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1976. "We were both involved with appropriations—Ruth on the House side and me on the Senate side—when we served together. We were some of the first women to play major roles in the budgeting process," said Perdue. "I learned a lot from her, both about the budgeting process, but also about the importance of self-confidence for women in political office."

When asked about the importance of women in political offices, including the governorship, Perdue said North Carolina has come a long way since she first got elected to the legislature, but "still has a long way to go." Some policy issues were considered to be

"women's issues." "When I was first in the legislature, there was a lot of pushback, especially for a woman dealing with appropriations."

Although there is no longer resistance to women working on a range of political issues and more women are running for political office in 2018 than ever before, Perdue believes there is still more to be done to get women into politics.

"Women are over half of the voters and only one quarter of the officeholders," Perdue said. "I really don't care what party women are, there need to be more at all levels of government."

One of the causes Perdue continues to champion after leaving electoral politics is getting young people more engaged in the process. She routinely speaks to young people and offers advice for how they can get involved in public service, especially young women.

Perdue said she emphasizes four key points for young women who want to get into political office: "The first is to develop your contact list—everyone needs a great group of people to help them get into office and succeed once they are there. It is also important to realize politics is transaction and you need good relationships to get things done. That is connected with my third point, which is that long-term relationships are extremely important. Finally, I tell everyone that, in politics, you can't have it all. You stand up for what you truly believe in, but sometimes the vote goes against you."

In the judiciary, Rocky Mount native Susie Sharp was a pioneer for women in North Carolina and the nation. The only woman in her University of North Carolina School of Law class, Sharp was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Kerr Scott in 1949, making her the first woman in the state to be a judge. In 1962 Governor Terry Sanford appointed Sharp as Associate Justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court, another first, and in 1974, Sharp garnered 74 percent of the statewide vote to become the first woman elected to a Chief Justice role for a state court in the country. Senator Sam Ervin even recommended to President Richard Nixon that Sharp become the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, but Nixon rejected his suggestion (Hayes, 2008).

These are but a few of the political milestones for women in North Carolina politics. At the local level, Isabella Cannon was elected as mayor of Raleigh in 1977 at the age of 73. Known as “the little old lady in tennis shoes,” Cannon was the first woman mayor of a major city in North Carolina.

These and other women who have blazed political trails throughout North Carolina are remarkable in their own right. The larger story is that, despite the successes of these and other women and North Carolina’s reputation as a progressive state for much of the 20th Century, progress has been slow for achieving equality.

WOMEN AS VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

When the future 19th Amendment was being debated in North Carolina in 1920, many groups were aligned against giving women the right to vote. Democrats, particularly in eastern North Carolina, many churches, and the textile industry thought giving women the right to vote would have many consequences, such as suffrage being fully extended to African Americans or damage to the institution of marriage. A sign hanging over the Hotel Raleigh in the summer of 1920 expressed the sentiment of these groups: "Politics are bad for women and women are bad for politics."

Beginning in the middle and latter parts of the 20th century, women have become a numerical majority of voters in North Carolina and have become a political force at the ballot box, often determining the outcome of key elections in the state. Voting is the major way in which women shape public policy in the state.

This year has been called the "Year of the Woman" by many pundits. Although many refer to the number of women running in the midterm elections, women voters may determine the outcome of federal, state, and local elections, especially given the energy among many groups of women voters, especially suburban and minority voters. In the most recent Meredith Poll (August 2018), about 76 percent of women in North Carolina indicated they were likely to vote. Given that women comprise approximately 54 percent of registered voters in the state, this group could affect many key federal, state, and local races.

Much of the interest in voting by women in 2018 has to do with their response to President Donald Trump. Results from the Meredith Poll support this argument. For women overall, there is a six percentage point gap, as compared to men, in terms of their approval of Trump (41.6% Women-47.5% Men). Doing a deeper dive into the results reveals urban women in the state strongly disapprove of Trump (32% approve-61% disapprove) and suburban women have an almost similar disapproval gap (36% approve-56% disapprove).

Two concepts are important to understand women as voters in contemporary elections: voter turnout and gender gap. Both concepts speak to the power of women as voters and, indirectly, to women serving in elected office.

Voter Registration

It has long been the case that women of voting age have outnumbered men in North Carolina. Chart 1 demonstrates that women, as a percentage of registered voters, are continuing to increase as we get further into the 21st century.

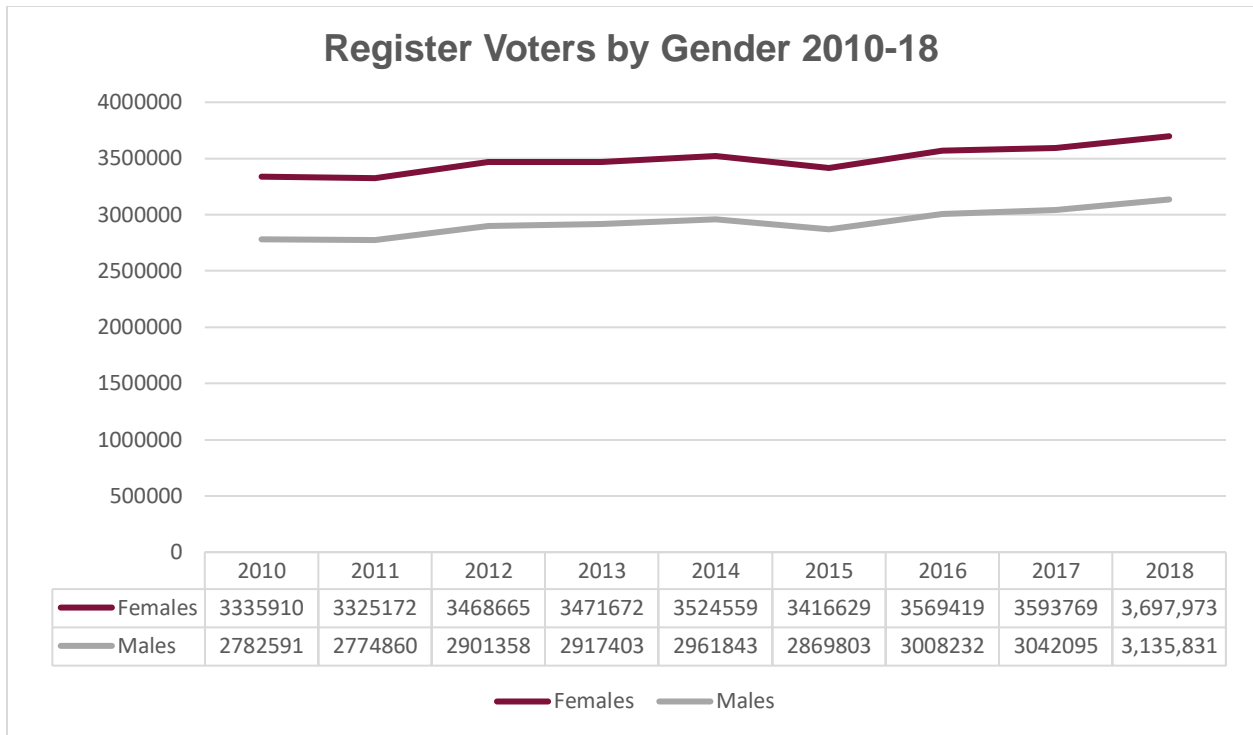


Chart 1

Source: NC Board of Elections

As North Carolina grows, so does the gap between women and men voters. Currently, there are over 550,000 more women voters than men. Although this is significant, other trends within the population of registered voters are worth noting.

Catawba College Professor Michael Bitzer has done significant analysis of registered voters in North Carolina and notes that changes in the location and party affiliation of registered voters, including those of women, is significant. He argues women in urban and suburban areas of the state are increasingly moving away from the Republican Party, at least in terms of voter registration. There are more women, particularly younger women, who are choosing to register as Democrats or unaffiliated voters.

In Chart 2, the largest segment of registered voters in urban areas of North Carolina—Millennial women—are either registered as Democrats or unaffiliated voters (80%), with fewer than one-fifth (19%) being registered as Republicans.

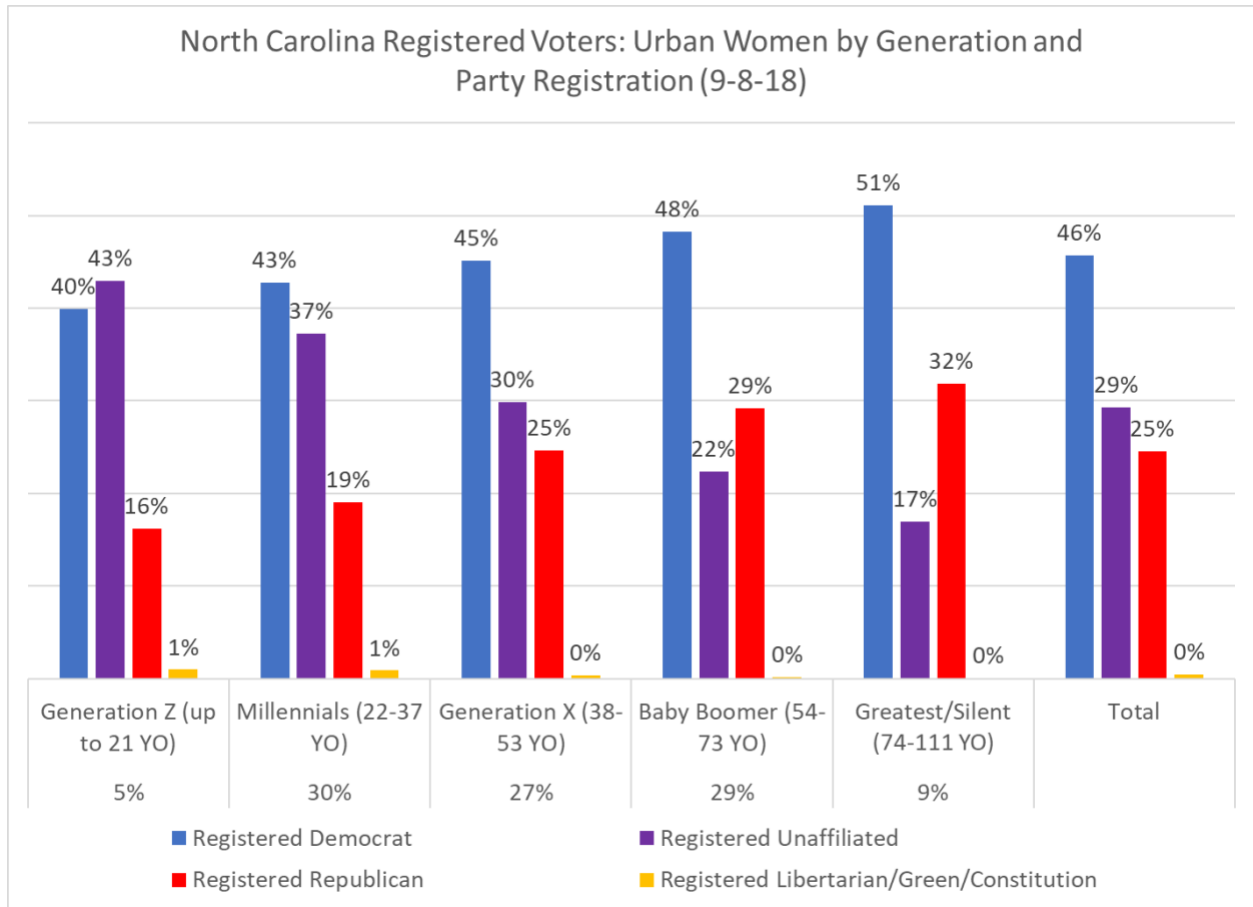


Chart 2

Source: Michael Bitzer, Catawba College

The pattern in suburban areas of North Carolina is similar, although more, younger women choose to be unaffiliated voters and fewer register as Democrats. However, in these suburban areas – a stronghold for Republican candidates since 2010 — Generation Z and Millennial women are not registering as Republicans as frequently as their older peers. Chart 3 illustrates this split between younger and older women voters.

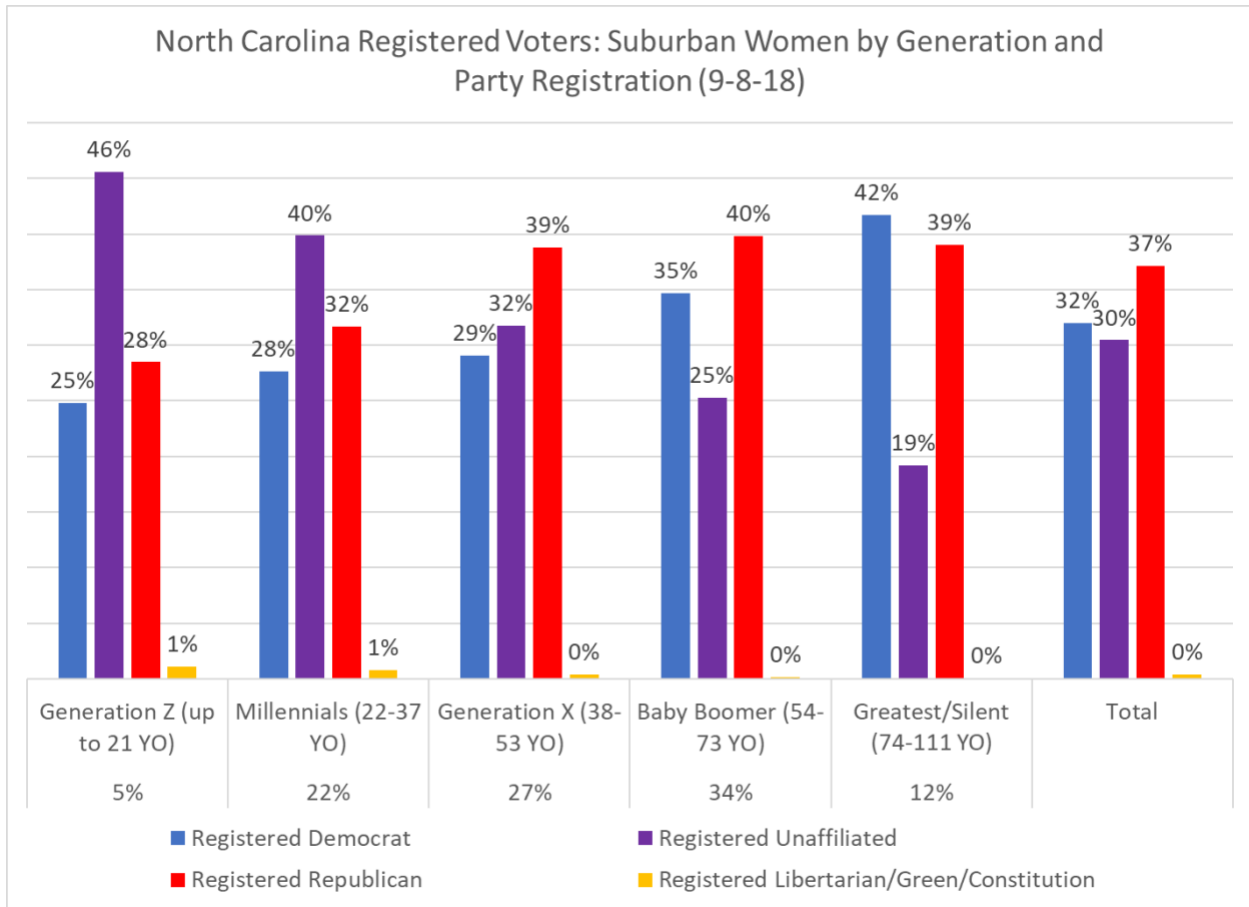


Chart 3

Source: Michael Bitzer, Catawba College

Even in rural North Carolina, younger women are registered more as Democrats and unaffiliated voters than Baby Boomer and Silent Generation women, who are registered as Republicans in higher numbers. This voter registration pattern seems to contradict the voting patterns in rural North Carolina, where voters support Republican candidates in local, state, and national elections. Part of the explanation for this seeming contradiction is that older women vote at much higher rates than younger women. This is particularly true in non-presidential elections when voting rates for rural women under the age of 30 is approximately 14 percent.

It is worth noting that older women from rural North Carolina are still registered as Democrats, even as their voting patterns suggest that they support Republican candidates. In Chart 4, it is significant that women register less as Democrats and Republicans and more as unaffiliated voters, particularly in comparison to their older peers.

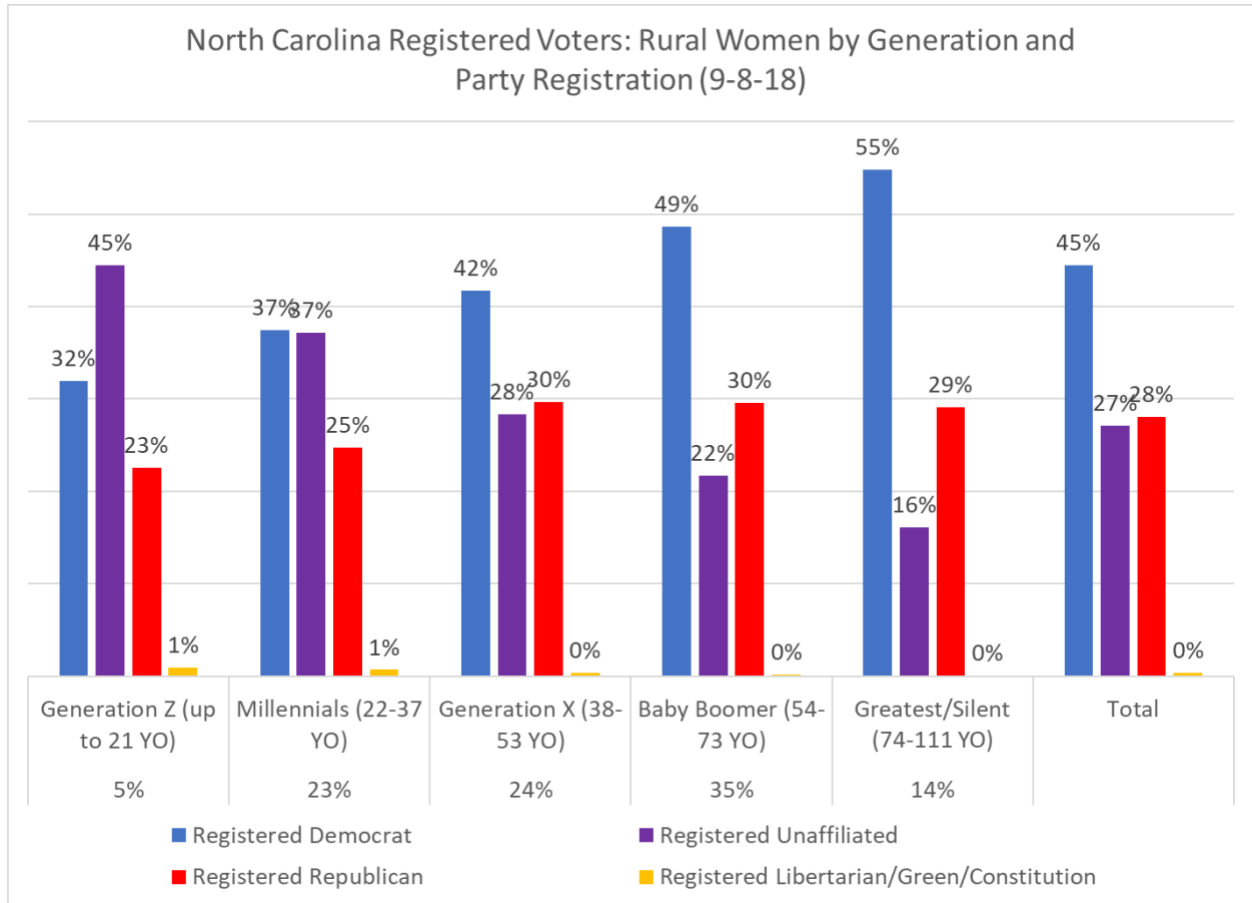


Chart 4

Source: Michael Bitzer, Catawba College

The charts above show the generation differences in terms of voter registration among women from across the state. Younger women are moving away from being registered as Democrats and Republicans.

The examination of voter registration data also reveals other differences that may affect electoral outcomes. When women voters are compared to men voters in terms of their registration patterns, across ages and geographic locations, it demonstrates a **gender gap**. As Charts 5 and 6 demonstrate, men register more as Republicans than do women across all age groups. The registration gap is being reflected in public opinion results, as mentioned above, but also in terms of voting behavior, as discussed below.

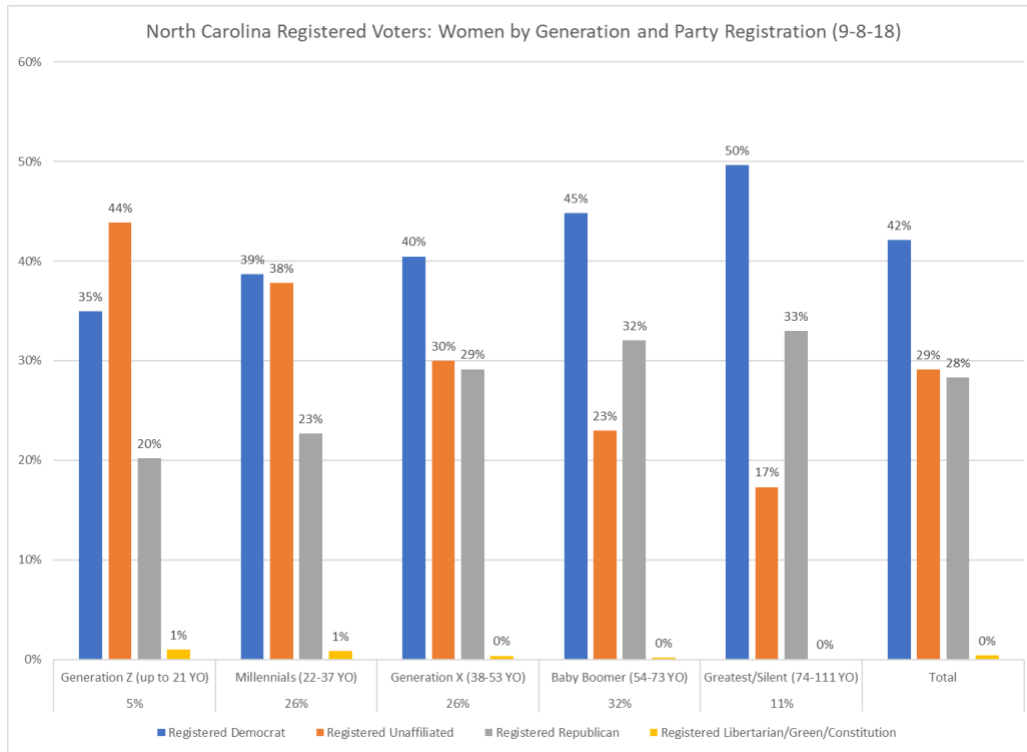


Chart 5

Source: Michael Bitzer, Catawba College

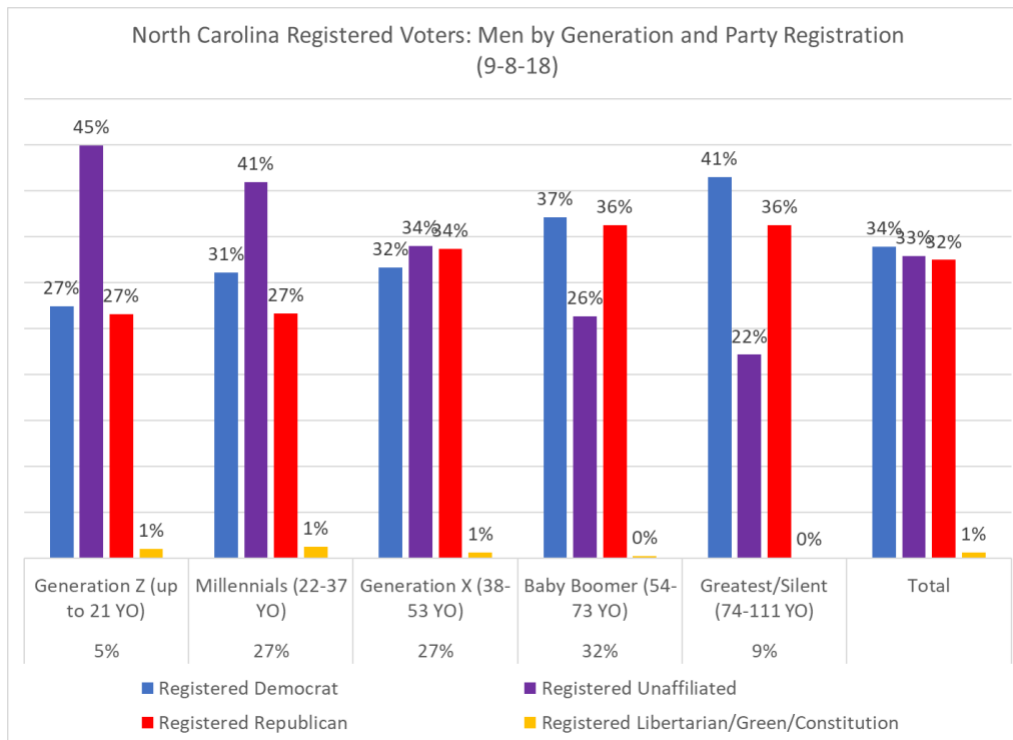


Chart 6

Source: Michael Bitzer, Catawba College

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is the percentage of those registered who actually vote. At the national level, the turnout for women has exceeded that of men in every presidential election since 1980. In non-presidential election years, or midterm election years, women have turned out at a higher percentage than have men. With one exception—2010—women have voted at higher rates than men over the last decade.

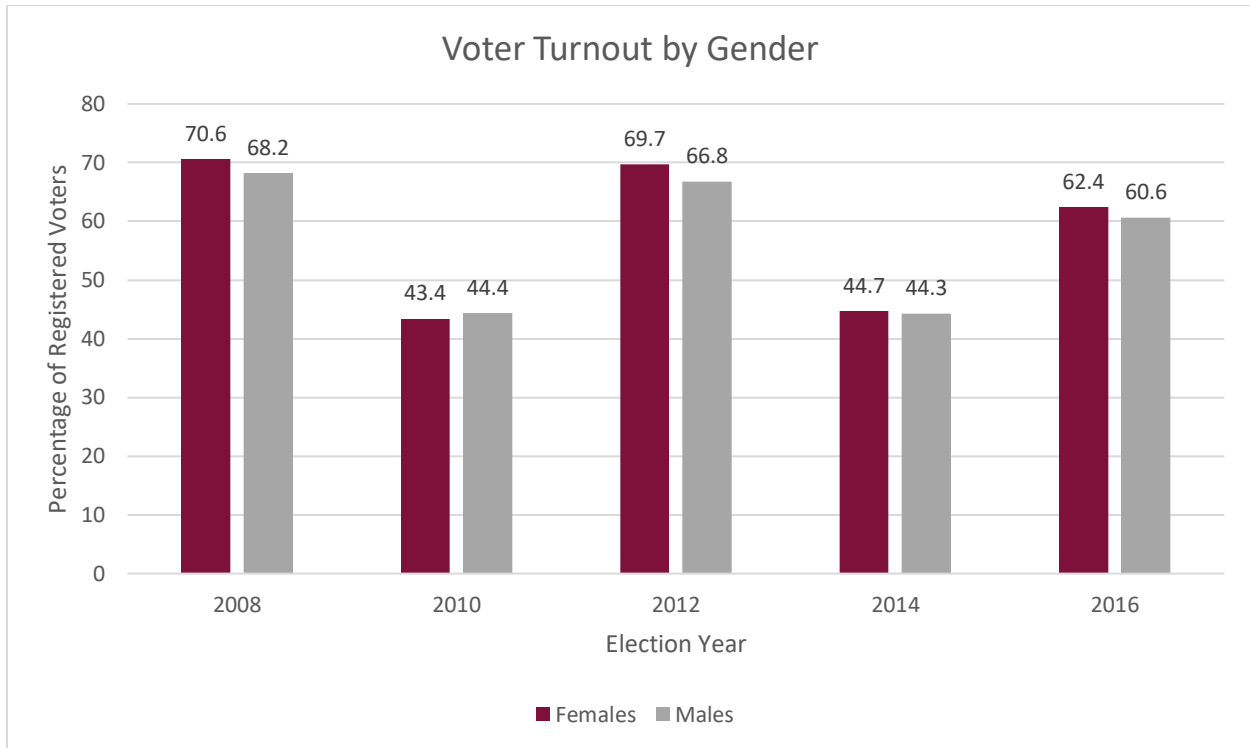


Chart 7

Source: US Census

Since 2018 is a midterm election, a more thorough analysis of voting behavior in 2010 and 2014 demonstrates the increase in the latter election year because of women in groups who favor Democratic candidates. In Chart 8, black women in North Carolina had the largest increase of any group and made most of the gain of Democratic women generally. At the same time, white men and white Republicans turned out in slightly lower rates in 2014 than they did in 2010.

Although predicting the voter turnout in 2018 from previous election years is imprecise, the increase in women’s voting, along with polling data that suggests women are energized heading into the election period, would forecast that women are going to play an increasingly significant role this year.

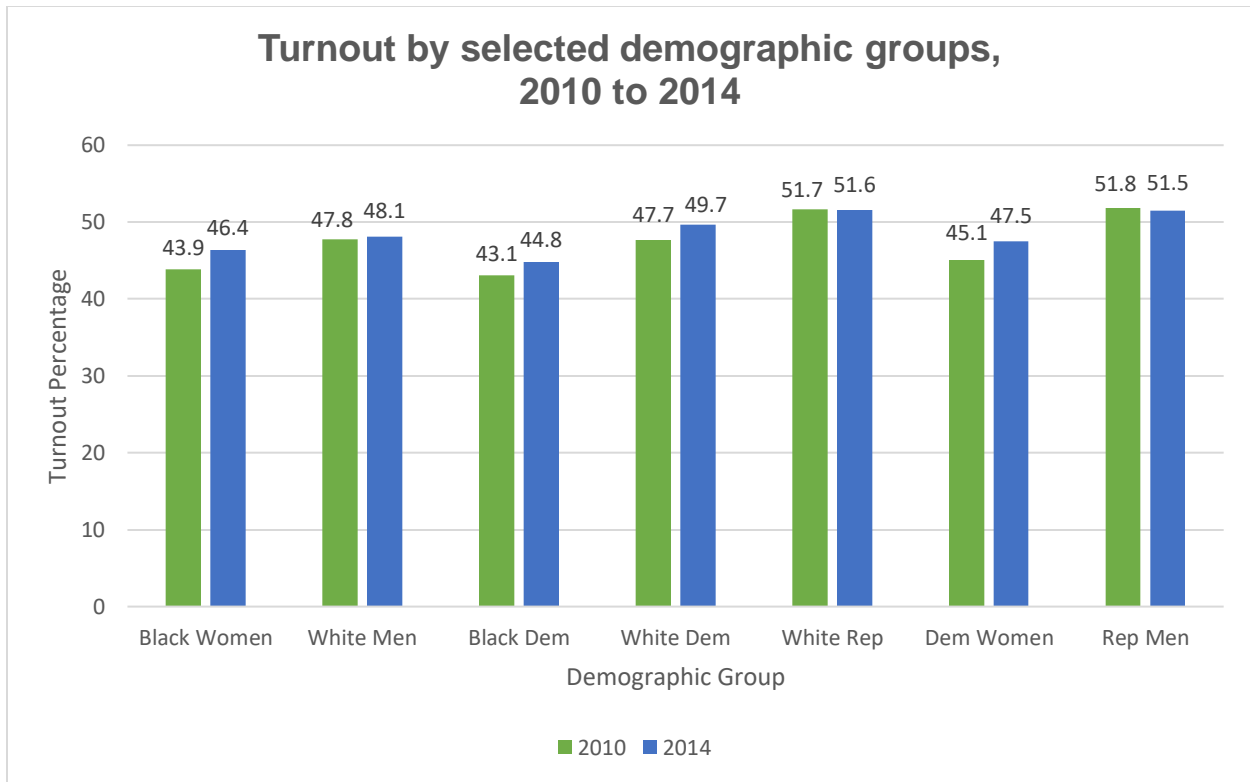


Chart 8

Source: Democracy North Carolina

Gender Gap in Voting Behavior

Not only is the number of women voting relative to men important, but it is also important to look at voting tendencies. Over the last 20 years, there has been discussion and research into the gender gap in voting. Since the election of Bill Clinton to the presidency in 1992, there has been a profound schism in voting behavior with a majority of women supporting Democratic presidential candidates and a majority of men supporting Republican presidential candidates.

The gender gap has many causes, but research supports the perception that Democrats favor policy positions held by a majority of women. In a recent Pew Research poll (2012), there were significant gender differences in terms of women favoring a more activist government, more social programs for the disadvantaged, fewer restrictions on abortion, same-sex marriage, and protections for the environment. Furthermore, the women who supported these policy positions felt that Democratic candidates held positions on these and other issues that were similar to their own.

In North Carolina, the profound gender gap has been more recent, with the majority of women voting for Barack Obama for president in 2008 and 2012, rather than the Republican opponent.

Percentage of Men and Women Voting for Presidential Candidates

	2004		2008		2012		2016	
Men	Bush	60%	McCain	56%	Romney	54%	Trump	56%

	2004		2008		2012		2016	
	Kerry	38%	Obama	43%	Obama	45%	Clinton	38%
Women	Bush	54%	McCain	44%	Romney	49%	Trump	45%
	Kerry	46%	Obama	55%	Obama	51%	Clinton	52%

Although these results mirror those of other states and national trends, any discussion of a gender gap in voting behavior must go beyond “men” and “women.”

The 2016 presidential election is an illustration of the complexity of the gender gap. In North Carolina, while Clinton won the majority of women’s votes, Clinton’s margin among females was skewed by the votes of African American women (95%), Latina women (69%), and other minority women (57%), as reported by CNN’s exit poll results. According to the same exit poll data, Trump received a majority of the votes of white women, including those with at least a college degree (53%).

ANNA MILLS WAGONER
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 19C
Rowan County



In describing her life in public service, current Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in Rowan County Anna Mills Wagoner said her entry into public service “was a result of opportunity and perhaps serendipity.” After

graduating from Agnes Scott College, getting married, and starting a family, Wagoner got involved as a volunteer court advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Her hard work as a court advocate led to Wagoner being named executive director for a domestic violence prevention agency in Rowan County. Because of her work on domestic violence, Wagoner decided to attend law school—when her youngest child was five—so she could eventually open a law practice devoted to

domestic and juvenile law.

Sometimes, however, plans have a way of changing. After law school, Wagoner’s career moved into the public sphere as she ran for district court judge just five years after graduation. In describing what helped her win her first race and every race since, Wagoner said it was her community involvement. The “friendships and relationships I have developed with talented, energetic, professionals from across our state and nation have been invaluable.”

Appointed by President George W. Bush as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina in 2001, Wagoner served there until she ran for Superior Court in Rowan County, where she continues to serve. As a woman with a family, many interests in her community, and a busy schedule with a crowded court docket, Wagoner said people who succeed in public service must constantly “juggle competing issues while being able to focus on the top priorities.”

Asked what advice she would give other women hoping to serve, Wagoner said: “Do not be afraid of rejection, but be prepared if you come up short. Running for office or seeking appointive office is not for the faint of heart!”

In the 2018 Congressional elections in North Carolina, the gender gap could play a key role in three of the tighter races. House Districts 2, 9, and 13. Two of those races—in the 2nd and 13th districts—feature Democratic women challengers

(Linda Coleman in the 2nd District and Kathy Manning in the 13th, while there is no incumbent in the 9th District.) Very strong turnout from women voters, especially minority women in those districts, could be key if Democrats want to pick up any House seats in North Carolina.

WOMEN AS CANDIDATES IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Challenges of Getting Women into Public Service

The number of women entering appointed and elected office has slowly increased over time, but not to the same degree as women entering professions such as law or medicine. In these areas, many structural barriers have been reduced or removed, such as those related to admissions practices of law and medical schools. There are no such structural barriers to women seeking public service offices, but there are many factors affecting women considering a career, or even part-time service, as an elected or appointed officeholder. Women still bear most of the child and senior care responsibilities in society, making it difficult to find the time to squeeze public service into their busy lives. Also, because women tend to find professional success somewhat later in their lives and relatively few political positions in the state pay a full-time salary, the economic realities of running and serving are real. These realities, however, do not explain fully why few women seek appointed and elected office in North Carolina.

A generation ago, there were widely held beliefs about why so few women ran for office. Up until the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was evidence of overt discrimination against women running for office and electoral gatekeepers making it very difficult for women to run for office (Githens and Prestage, 1977; Kirkpatrick, 1974). The climate of overt discrimination is increasingly uncommon (Woods, 2000). Even some of the most widely held stereotypes, such as the idea women cannot raise money to the same degree as men, an important indicator of electoral success, have been disproven (Cook, 1998; Fox, 2010; Lawless and Pearson, 2008).

Given that many barriers to electoral success have been reduced or eliminated, there are still challenges women must overcome to achieve gender equity in office holding.

The most obvious reason for slow growth in the number of women officeholders is the incumbency advantage. The facts that men hold a significant majority of political offices in the country and state and that, historically, incumbents win 70-95 percent of the time, depending on the office, make it difficult for women to quickly change the numbers. Also, women are just recently moving into the professions considered to be the natural pipelines to political office; thus, there is a lag between more women becoming lawyers, business executives, and other occupations that more likely lead to political careers and running for offices (Lawless and Fox, 2010).

The largest challenge, however, is in the motivation women have to enter politics. Political scientists Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox argue women are successful in achieving political office if they actively seek out offices (Lawless and Fox, 2012). Their research on the political pipeline demonstrates women are half as likely as men to see themselves in office and half as likely again to take any steps to seek the office.

One issue is women's self-perception. Men are 60 percent more likely to see themselves as well qualified for political office. Even highly qualified women often do not see themselves as suitable for office as even less qualified men. This self-perception, coupled with the research finding that women are encouraged to run for office about 40 percent less frequently than equally qualified men – by elected officeholders, party officials, friends, and family members – illustrates another reason why women across the nation and in North Carolina are outnumbered on the ballot by a 3-to-1 margin.

In recent years there has been an increased focus on a concept that political scientists call **election adversity** (Kanthak and Woon 2014). This is the idea that the process of campaigning is so challenging—emotional, financially, and physically — many people simply do not want to run for office. Kanthak and Woon argue that women are more election adverse than men and as state and local races become more expensive and negative, there is no wonder the political parties have more challenges recruiting qualified candidates, including women.

For the last two decades, however, women have won offices at an increasing rate, particularly in open seat elections. To put it bluntly, in a majority of cases, when women run, women win.

The 2014 and 2016 Ballots in North Carolina

The situation described by Lawless and Fox delineates the difficulty for increasing the number of women in elected office in North Carolina. Women were 25 percent of the office-seekers in the 2014 general election, or 525 out of 2,097 candidates on the ballot. These women, however, won almost two-thirds of the races. The number of women running and winning slightly increased in 2016, as illustrated by the table below.

Office	Percentage of Women Candidates		Percentage of Women Winning Race	
	2014	2016	2014	2016
Federal	20%	14.7%	50%	50%
Council of State	NA	36.6%	NA	50%
NC Senate	27%	30.7%	54%	48.1%
NC House	23%	24.5%	59%	65.2%
District Attorney	19%	60%	77%	100%
County Offices	24%	31.7%	62%	66.1%
Judicial	30%	38.8%	74%	89.7%
Average	25%	26.2%	63%	67.4%

The 2018 Ballot in North Carolina

There has been a great deal of attention focused on the number of women candidates for Congress in 2018 with 549 women filing for Senate or House seats and 262 remaining on general election ballots across the state. Most Americans (61%), according to an August poll by the Pew Research Center, state that having more women on the ballot is a good thing. A majority of men (54%) and women (68%) held the belief that having more women running was a positive. There was, however, a large partisan divide in the results with 80 percent of Democrats and those who lean Democrat responding positively to the number of women running for congressional seats, while only 39 percent of Republicans or those who lean Republican thought this was a good thing. This may reflect more on the fact that two-thirds of the candidates for Congress are Democrats, rather than misogyny among Republican and Republican-leaning voters.

A further examination of the ballots across the states reveals that some states, like California, have seen a tremendous increase in the number of women running for Congressional seats. California had 60 women file and 40 remain on the general election ballot.

Other states, such as North Carolina, have seen very little increase in the number of women filing for Congressional seats. This year, ten women filed and six won primaries and remain on the ballot for November 6 (Linda Coleman (D) NC-2, Virginia Fox (R) NC-5, Denise Adams (D) NC-7, Kyle Horton (D) NC-7, Alma Adams (D) NC-12, and Kathy Manning (D) NC-13).

Starting in 2010, the number of women filing for Congressional seats and surviving the primary and appearing on the general election ballot has been fairly consistent, as the table demonstrates.

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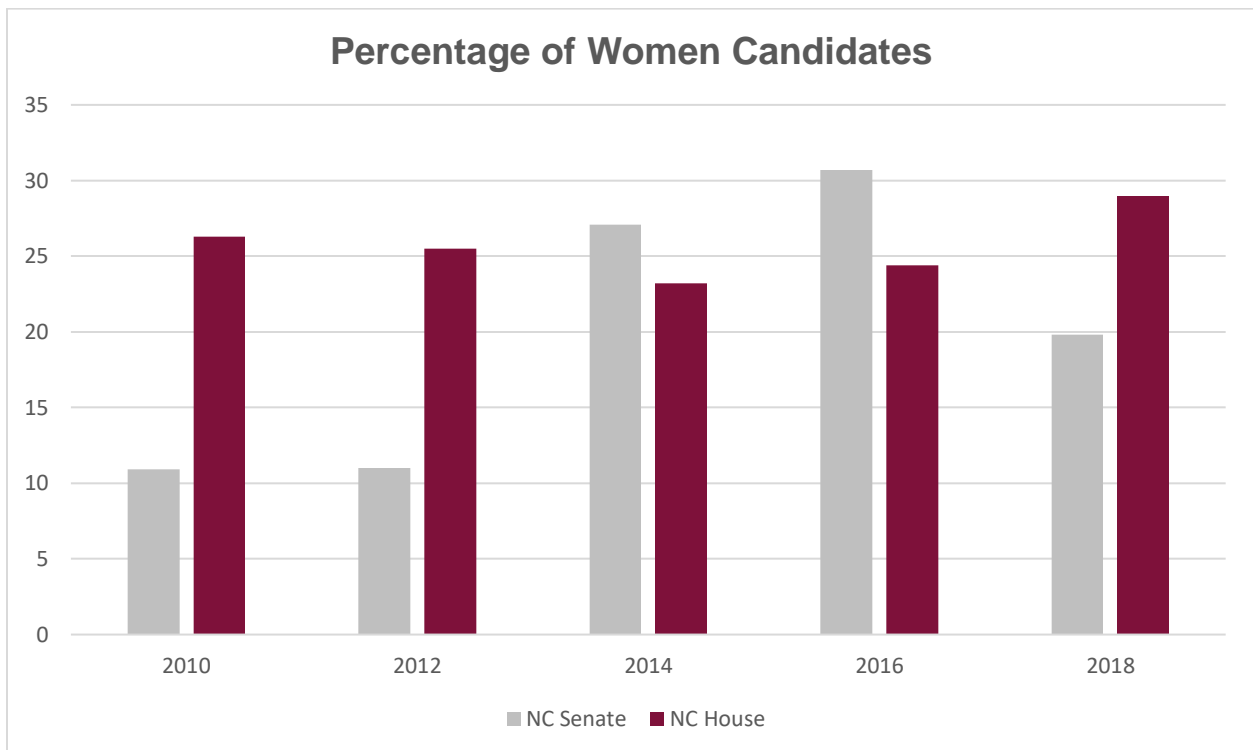
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Women running in primary	5	10	6	10	13	10
Women running in general election	4	4	5	6	6	6

The percentage of women on the North Carolina ballot has declined since the 2010 midterm election, a trend reflected in many states around the country. It also led to the decline in the number of women serving.

The reality is, despite some areas of improvement in the number of women candidates, 2018 is an ordinary year for North Carolina with only **24.3%** of the candidates for local, state, and federal office being women. That number is a decrease from 2016 (26.3%).

Looking at the different seats that women are campaigning for in 2018, there are wide discrepancies in terms of the offices sought, the location of the offices, and the party affiliation of the women candidates.

The number of women seeking seats in the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate has increased in 2018 over recent election years, but significantly in terms of the percentage of candidates on the ballot, as the graph below shows.



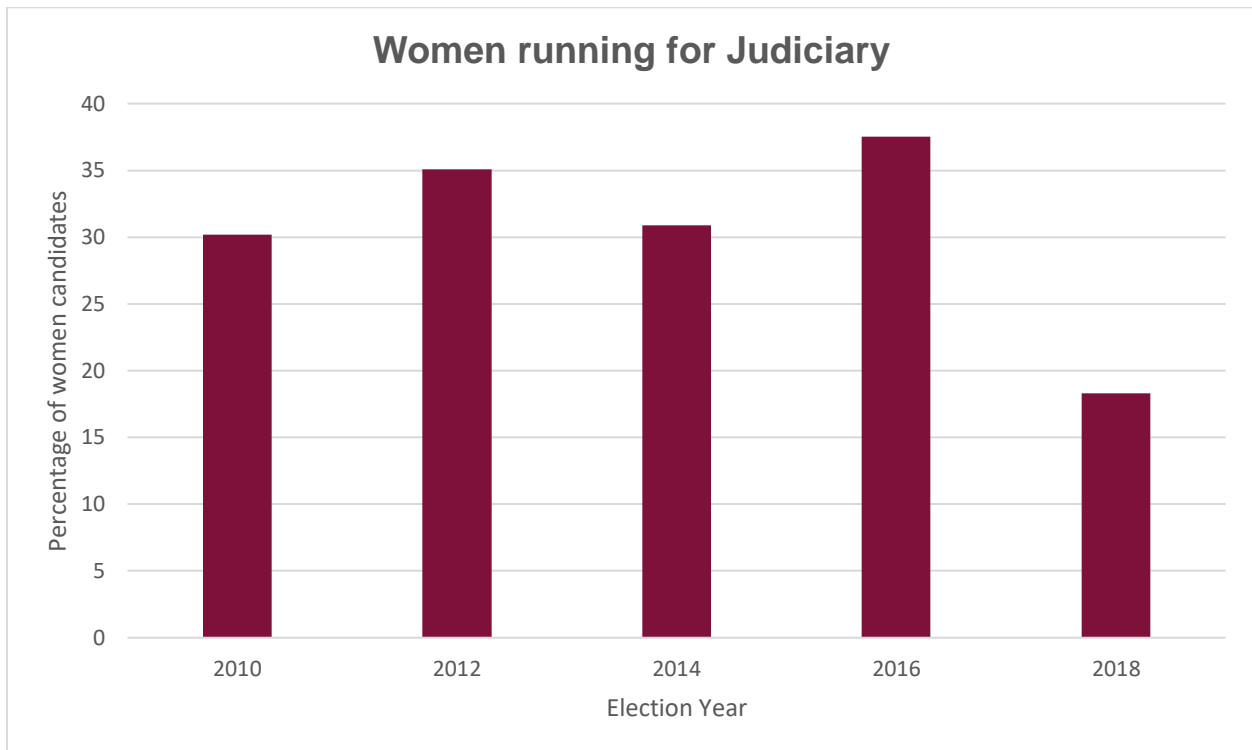
There was a nearly 27 percent increase in the total number of candidates seeking legislative seats in 2018, as compared to 2016 and a 26 percent increase in the total number of women candidates. Put simply, the number of women seeking legislative seats increased, but slightly less than the overall increase in the number of candidates. The overall increase in

candidates for the legislature is a result of both major parties, plus several third parties, increasing their candidate recruitment.

Almost two-thirds (64.6%) of all the women legislative candidates are Democrats, but this is not unusual in North Carolina and is a slight decrease from the last non-presidential election year—2014—in which 70 percent of all the women running for the General Assembly were women.

Geographically, most of the women running for legislative seats are in urban (38.4%) and suburban (27.3%) districts, with just under a quarter of women (24.2%) running in rural districts. This urban-suburban-rural divide is also consistent with elections since 2010 in the state.

Historically, women have run in consistently high numbers for judicial offices (Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Court, and District Court), but in 2018 the number of women has decreased significantly, as the graph below shows.



In most years, the percentage of women candidates for district court seats is 35-40 percent, yet in 2018, the percentage of women candidates dropped to 20.5 percent. This decrease occurred primarily in rural counties in the western part of North Carolina.

A large majority of the almost 2,500 candidates running in North Carolina in 2018 were at the county level with races being contests for boards of county commissioners, boards of education, soil and water conservation commissioner, sheriff, and a small number of city and town council positions. Overall, women make up 28.1 percent of the candidates running for these offices, but the percentage of women varies widely, depending on the office sought, as shown in the following table.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Office	Percentage of Women Candidates
Board of County Commissioners	22.5%
Board of Education	19.2%
Clerk of Superior Court	51.7%
Register of Deeds	65.5%
Sheriff	1.4%
Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner	14.9%
Sanitary District Supervisor	10%
Coroner	0%
Tax Assessor	0%
City and Town Councils	27.6%

Further analysis of the candidates for county-level offices in North Carolina indicates there is a disparity in women's representation between urban and rural areas of the state. In North Carolina's 15 urban counties¹ women are 36.2 percent of the candidates, but in the remaining 85 rural counties, women are only 26.2% of the candidates.

Of these rural counties, Beaufort had no women running for any county office, while several others—Bladen and Haywood—only had women running for Clerk of Superior Court or Register of Deeds, two elected offices with little to no policy-making authority and long considered to be more administrative offices.

The county office with the most policy-making responsibility—the board of county commissioners—is another office in which many counties have few, if any women, running for positions. Of the 85 rural counties, 38 of these have no women running to set property tax rates, fund education construction, oversee emergency services, and provide other key functions for residents.

It is worth noting, however, that women win their electoral races in urban and rural counties at almost the same frequency. It is the relative lack of women declaring their candidacies in these rural counties that leads to higher levels of gender underrepresentation.

The primary reason for the large gap between the number of men and women who run for office in North Carolina is a significant gap in political ambition. Put briefly, men and women do not have equal interest in seeking elected office. As Fox and Lawless (2014) argue, while men's interest in running for political office has remained steady over the last decade, women's interest has dropped. According to their research, only 14 percent of women express any interest in running for political office at some point in the future, while over 23 percent of men state a similar ambition. As Fox and Lawless point out, these differences hold across political party, income level, age, race, profession, and region.

This decrease in women's political ambition in the state must be examined against the political realities that most voters seem to have no political biases against women running for office and that women can perform the tasks necessary for being a successful candidate, such as raising money, as indicated above. It is also critical to examine the fundamental causes for this declining ambition when it appears as though more women are running for office in many other states.

¹ The 15 urban counties, as determined by the US Census Bureau, are: Buncombe, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Johnston, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Orange, Pitt, Union, and Wake.

Fox and Lawless identify three significant barriers to women's candidate emergence:

1. **Gendered perceptions of the qualifications to run for office and of the electoral environment.** Men are 60 percent more likely than women to assess themselves as "very qualified" to run for office. Women are twice as likely to consider themselves as "not at all qualified." These differences exist even when women report equal knowledge of the political process and policy issue, have similar experience in volunteering for political campaigns or attending public meetings, and have equivalent experiences such as serving on nonprofit boards. In addition to differences in perceived qualifications to run for office, women are more likely to perceive the electoral environment as biased against women, even when voters suggest otherwise.
2. **Gendered patterns of political recruitment.** Women are encouraged to run significantly less often than men. Overall women are 40 percent less likely to be encouraged by political actors — elected officials, party official, or political activists — than are men. Equally important, according to Fox and Lawless, is that women are 25 percent less likely to be encouraged by friends, professional colleagues, and family members to run for office than are men.
3. **Gendered household roles and responsibilities.** Women continue to bear most of the household and childcare responsibilities in relationships and, as scholar Duerst-Lahti (2005) argues, "women may now think about running for office, but they probably think about it while making up the bed."

Other research reveals a variety of other factors that affect this difference in political ambition. Fox and Lawless (2013) state that men and women are exposed to less political information and discussion while in high school and college and are, therefore, socialized to be less interested in seeking political office. This finding reflects the research of political scientist Bruce Bimber (1999) who argues that women 18-24 see a significant decline in their interest in and exposure to politics, leading to a "lost generation" of women who do not regain their political interest until their mid-to-late 30s.

As reflected in the next section of this report, fewer women serve in elected offices in rural parts of the state. As Fox and Lawless and other researchers suggest, places in North Carolina without many women serving in elected office are unlikely to have many women step forward to run for office, thus creating a vicious cycle.

The academic research and data from the candidacies of women in North Carolina elections demonstrate that existing practices for getting more women to run are simply not enough. There needs to be a concerted effort to change the political culture of North Carolina, and recommendations for beginning this process will be made at the end of this report.

WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICES IN NORTH CAROLINA

There are almost 5,000 elected officeholders in North Carolina. A few, such as governor and United States Senator, are prominent and get a great deal of attention from citizens. Most, however, are at the county or city level, and those who occupy the offices are known to relatively few.

Across the spectrum of political offices in North Carolina, some elected offices, such as county sheriff, are virtually barren of women, while other offices, such as Clerk of Superior Court or Register of Deeds, have strong majorities of women. This lack of uniformity of representation also extends to the urban and rural areas of the state. Urban areas, like the Triangle and Charlotte, have a good number of women serving in almost every type of elected office. Rural areas are often a different story with few, if any, women serving in offices, especially policy-making positions.

The data about women serving in elected offices in North Carolina point to the need for more women candidates for all offices in the state. Women candidates – both Democrat and Republican – do well when they run, especially in statewide races. As the previous section on women candidates demonstrates, there are places and races in which no women run, and new solutions are needed in these locations.

Congress

Since North Carolina elected Eliza Jane Pratt to the United States House of Representatives in 1946, eight women have served in Congress. Although the first two women elected to Congress were Democrats, the history of women in the North Carolina delegation demonstrates that North Carolina is indeed a “purple state” in terms of being almost equally divided between voters who favor Democrats or Republicans. On the statewide level, voters elected Republican Elizabeth Dole to the U.S. Senate in a midterm election and Democrat Kay Hagan in a presidential election year.

Kay Hagan (D)	US Senate	2009-2015
Alma Adams (D)	US House	2014-present
Virginia Foxx (R)	US House	2005-present
Renee Ellmers (R)	US House	2011-2017
Sue Myrick (R)	US House	2005-2013
Elizabeth Dole (R)	US Senate	2003-2009
Eva M. Clayton (D) ¹	US House	1992-2003
Eliza Jane Pratt (D) ²	US House	1946-1947

North Carolina’s two-woman delegation in the House of Representatives is below the national average (13.3 percent v. 19.3 percent), ranking the state 27th in the nation in terms of women’s representation. Compared to many of its fellow Southeastern states, North Carolina ranks favorably—just slightly behind Virginia, Georgia, and Florida, but ahead of South Carolina and Tennessee.

In recent years, Congress has become more dysfunctional, passing fewer bills into law than in previous historical periods. Also, both the House and Senate’s way of conducting business in committee meetings and on the respective floors has degenerated with partisan bickering and little policy discussion being the norm, rather than the exception. Research by

¹ Eva Clayton won a regular election to fill a vacancy and a special election to fill a complete term on the same day. She was the first African American elected to serve in Congress from North Carolina since Reconstruction.

² Eliza Jane Pratt won an election to fill an unexpired term.

Dahlrup (2007) and others suggest that, if more women were elected to legislative bodies like the House and Senate, then the legislative bodies would function more effectively. Dahlrup suggests that a threshold of 30 percent is necessary for women to exert their influence. However, research by Manzo and McLennan (2017) suggest the threshold might be as high as 50 percent.

In this era of extreme polarization in Congress, more women could increase the chances for actual bi-partisanship on some issues. As Swers (2013) argues, women are more aggressive advocates for legislation affecting women, children, and families, even across party lines. She goes on to argue that the presence of more women in a deliberative body on all issues affects the quality of debate and decision-making, even among men. Consequently, legislators rely less on their talking points and ideological positions and have more substantive debates on the merits of issues when more women are present. This effect is supported by other researchers who studied legislators' deliberations about abortion, defense, and social welfare programs (Hawkesworth, 2003, Dodson, 2006, Swers, 2007).

The issue of increasing women in North Carolina's congressional delegation is similar to that of increasing women's representation in other political offices. Six of the thirty-four candidates for Congress on the General Election ballot in 2016 and six of thirty-two candidates in 2018 are women. This fact illustrates the fundamental issue in the state that relatively few women run for elected offices, but they are likely to win when they run. Given the incumbency advantage for U.S. House races and the politically gerrymandered districts in these races, it is not likely that significantly more women will run until retirements or resignations create open seat elections, as they have in the past. The best scenario for women to enter Congress is through the U.S. Senate because women of both parties perform better in statewide races. Also, as we have seen over recent decades, the incumbency advantage is not nearly as strong in these races.

In the midterm elections, two women candidates—Linda Coleman in the 2nd Congressional District and Kathy Manning in the 13th Congressional District—are in competitive races against incumbent George Holding and Ted Budd, respectively. These two districts are drawn as Republican-leaning districts, but polls, such as the recent Meredith Poll, suggest that Democratic candidates have about a six-point advantage in generic Congressional ballots in the state.

Executive Branch

North Carolina has a strong recent history of electing women to statewide executive leadership positions. Elaine Marshall was the first woman elected to the Council of State in 1996 when she won the Secretary of State office. Since then, seven other women have been elected or appointed to executive positions, including governor. There are ten elected positions in the executive branch of North Carolina³.

Name	Position	Term
Janet Cowell (D)	State Treasurer	2009-2017
Beth Wood (D)	State Auditor	2009-present
June Atkinson (D)	State Superintendent of Public Instruction	2005-2017
Cherie Berry (R)	Commissioner of Labor	2001-present
Elaine Marshall (D)	Secretary of State	1997-present
Beverly Perdue (D)	Governor Lt. Governor	2009-2013 2001-2009

³ Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Patricia Willoughby (D) ⁴	State Superintendent of Public Instruction	2004-2005
Meg Scott Phipps (D)	Commissioner of Agriculture	2001-2003

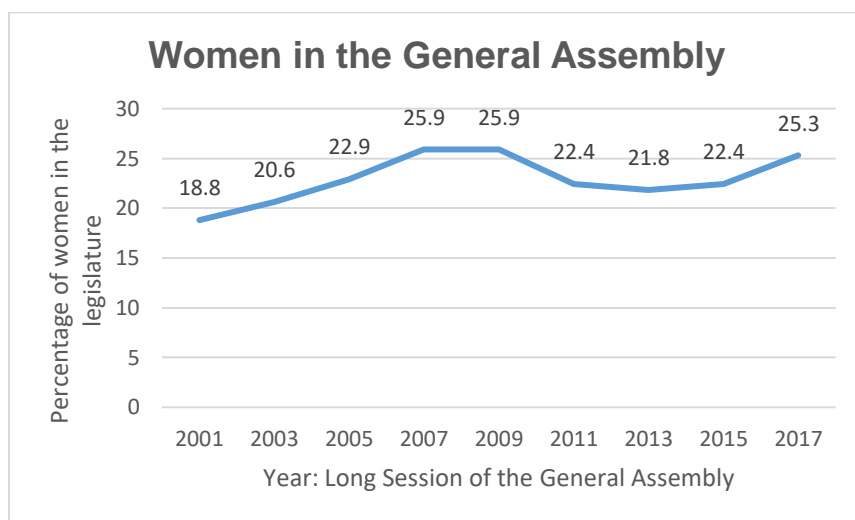
Nationally, women comprise 24 percent of the 312 elected state executive positions (CAWP 2018) with 36 states having women in these positions. For the last 15 years, North Carolina has exceeded the national average of women serving in the executive branch, primarily because of the longevity of Council of State members like Cherie Berry, Elaine Marshall, and Beth Wood.

The success of women being elected to Council of State offices in North Carolina can be attributed to the fact that more women run for these offices than they do for legislative offices – 35 percent v. 24 percent – and that women have a greater chance of winning in statewide races than in some districts in the state.

Legislative Branch

Between 1979 and 1993, the number of women serving in the 50 U.S. state legislatures doubled. Although North Carolina did not see the same growth in the number of women legislators, the percentage of women in the General Assembly grew by over 50 percent. Since 1993, both at the state and national levels, the growth rate of women serving as legislators slowed. At the national level, women gained 3.2 percentage points, while in North Carolina they gained 7.1 percentage points. The current level of women serving in the General Assembly—25.3 percent—is slightly less than the 2007-11 period in which women averaged just over 26 percent of the positions in the legislature.

As the chart below shows, after a decline in the number of women after the 2010 elections, the number of women serving has risen.



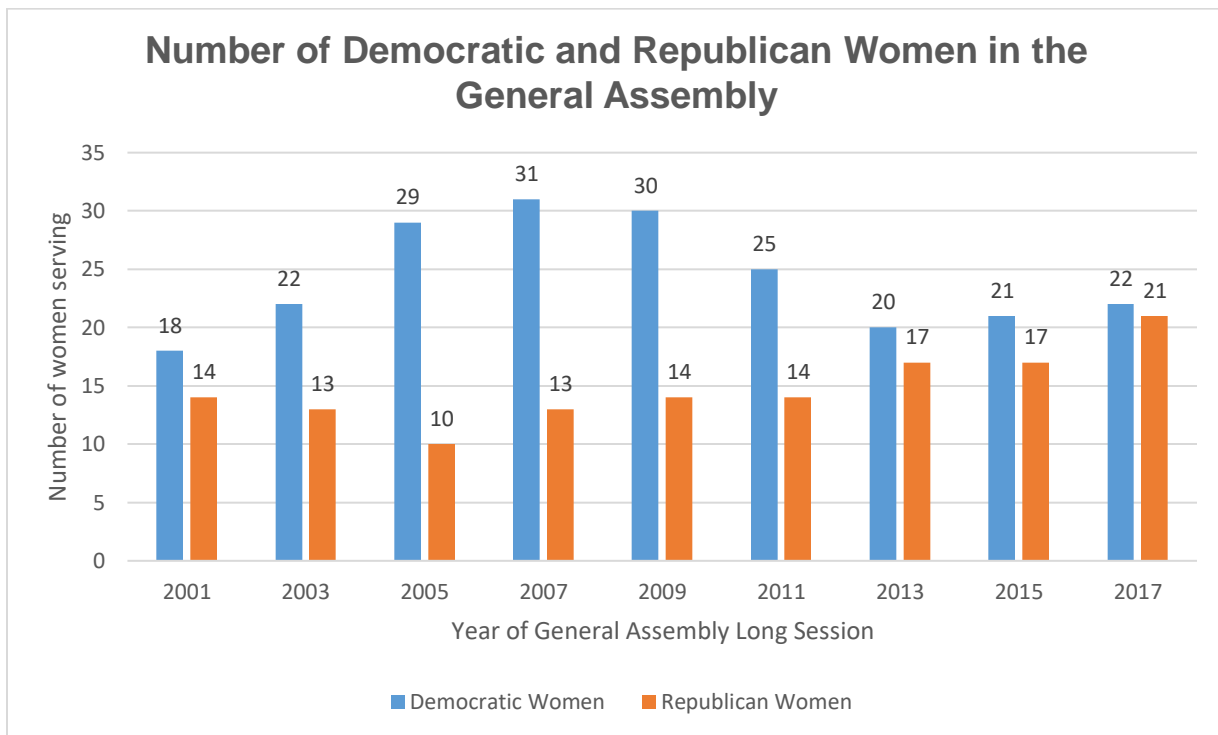
These slow gains have happened at the same time women earned graduate and professional degrees at an increasing rate and/or were moving up the corporate ladder. In 2016, for example women became the majority of the students in law schools (American Bar Association 2018).

⁴ Patricia N. Willoughby was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mike Ward.

As stated earlier in this report, there are many reasons for this slowdown in women serving in the state legislature. The incumbency advantage and women’s reticence in becoming candidates for legislative seats (just over 24 percent of the candidates for General Assembly seats in 2014 were women) have been discussed.

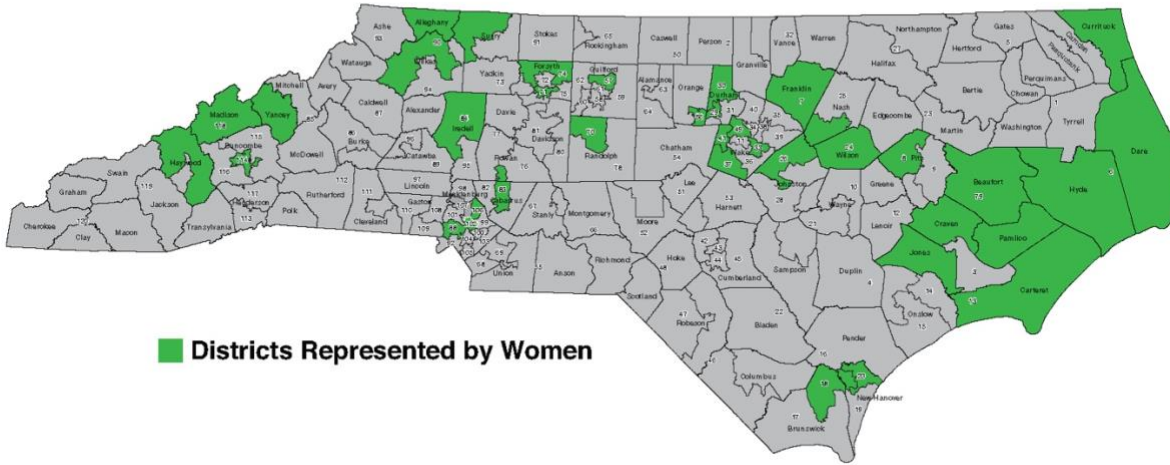
Two other issues are related to the slowing growth rate of women serving as legislators.

1. **The loss of multi-member districts in North Carolina** – Until the redistricting after the 2000 Census, North Carolina, like other states had multiple representatives elected from one geographic region. These districts have been consistently demonstrated to be associated with higher numbers of women state legislators (Arceneaux, 2001; Carroll; 1994; Hogan, 2001). Darcy, Welch, and Clark (1994) argue that parties and voters in multimember districts use this opportunity to seek representational balance by sex.
2. **The increased strength of the Republican Party in North Carolina politics** – Although Republicans in North Carolina have elected women at all levels of government in the state, Democrats in the state and nation continue to elect more women. This difference, however is smaller, as the following chart demonstrates.

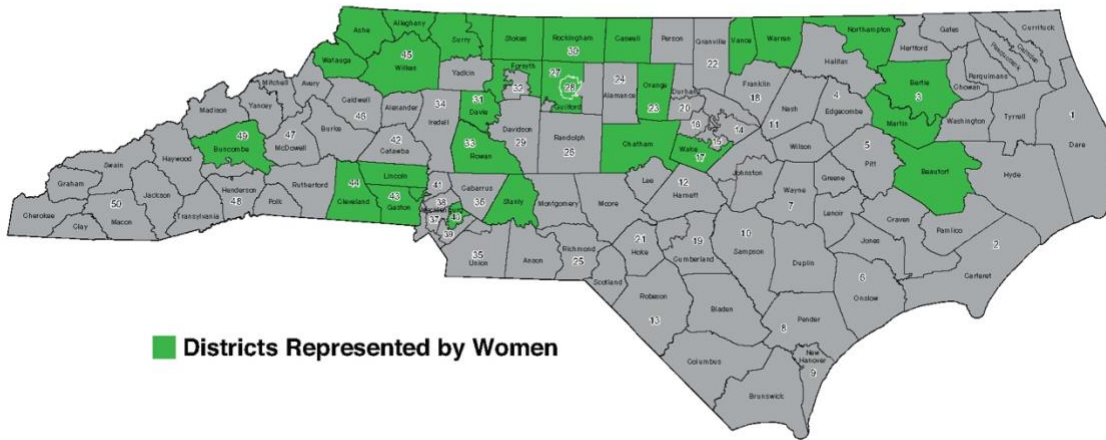


An examination of the geographic homes of women serving in the North Carolina General Assembly reveals that far more women serve from urban or suburban legislative districts than from rural districts. In the following maps, there are clusters of women serving in both the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate.

Districts for the N.C. House



Districts for the N.C. Senate



In the North Carolina House, women from urban and suburban counties – particularly Durham, Guilford, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties – outnumbered women legislators from rural counties over 2.5 to 1.

Although the urban-rural disparity is not as pronounced in the North Carolina Senate, the number of women serving from urban and suburban counties is twice that of women from rural counties.

Beyond the basic disparity in membership or even where women who serve in the state legislature come from is the fact that women members rarely serve in leadership roles. Across the nation, women in legislatures hold 19.5 percent of the

leadership positions,⁵ including three senate presidents and ten house speakers. North Carolina has one woman in leadership—Speaker Pro Tempore Sarah Stevens (R-90).

The North Carolina legislature is important for shaping public policies that affect daily lives of North Carolinians. Women in the General Assembly have important roles in shaping policies such as education, transportation, and social welfare. Studies have shown that women influence the policymaking and decision-making processes of state legislatures. Their presence in the legislature even affects the political participation of women in the state (Burns, Schlozman, and Verba, 2001).

For these reasons, the continued gender disparity in the General Assembly underscores the importance of continuing recruitment efforts to encourage women to run for these offices, particularly in the rural parts of the state.

Judicial Branch

Judges

Presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, and state legislative races command most of the attention from the media and voters, but in recent election years, some of the most hotly contested races in North Carolina have been for judicial offices. In 2014 and 2016, races for the Supreme Court attracted a great deal of money and attention. One of the races in 2016 between Republican Bob Edmunds and Democrat Mike Morgan was the most expensive judicial race in the nation with over \$5 million spent in the campaign. Other races, including those featuring women candidates, gained a great deal of attention for the high profile nature and, often, negativity of the campaigns.

As in North Carolina, 37 other states elect judges. These officials make important decisions every day about public policies in North Carolina, and these offices have been the place where women have made the greatest strides toward gender equity in elected offices in the state.

Nationally, women made up 33 percent of all state judgeships in 2018 (NAWJ 2018) with 24 states, including North Carolina exceeding the national average. North Carolina's gender representation at the appellate (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals) and district court levels is among the highest in the nation, with only the smaller number of women serving as Superior Court judges (18%), being problematic.

The North Carolina Court System has elected judges in four types of courts – two at the trial level and two at the appeals level.

- There are 271 district court judges in North Carolina and these judges hear cases in criminal, smaller civil, juvenile, and family law. Of the district court judges in North Carolina, 109 are women (40%).
- More serious criminal matters – primarily felonies – are heard by 109 superior court judges in the state as well as larger civil cases. Only 20 of these judges are women (18%).
- The first level in the appellate court system is the North Carolina Court of Appeals, where 5 of the 15 judges are women (40%).
- The top appellate court in the state is the North Carolina Supreme Court, where 3 of the 7 justices are women (43%).

⁵ These leadership positions include presidents and presidents pro tempore of the senate, as well as house speakers and speakers pro tempore. Also included are majority and minority leaders of both the house and senate.

The higher percentage of women serving on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals reflects the relative success of women running for statewide races, as opposed to districts. The large number of female district court judges support what Frederick and Streb (2008) contend are voters' positive stereotypes about women judges, including that they are more fair and would render justice in a more impartial manner than men.

District Attorneys

District Attorneys are elected representatives of the state and prosecute criminal and some juvenile cases in District and Superior Court. There are 39 district attorneys in North Carolina, 11 of whom are women (3 Democrats, 7 Republican, and 1 unaffiliated). This number represents a significant increase from 2015, when six of the district attorneys were women.

Clerks of Superior Court

Voters elect a Clerk of Superior Court in each county of North Carolina. Although clerks are primarily responsible for the administrative functioning of the superior and district courts, the clerks have a number of judicial functions, such as hearing probate cases and, in some situations, adoptions and competency hearings. Historically in the state, women have held a larger percentage of these elected positions than most others in the state, primarily because of the stereotypical association of women to administrative positions.

Of the 100 Clerks of Court, 59 are women in North Carolina (39 Democrats and 20 Republicans). In 2014, there were 60 women who served as Clerk of Superior Court across the state.

Sheriff

The county sheriff in North Carolina is an elected official who serves as the top law enforcement officer of a county. The only requirement for running for sheriff is that the person cannot be a felon.

Historically, few women have sought the position of county sheriff in North Carolina. Currently, Susan Johnson, a Democrat, serves as Sheriff of Currituck County. In 2014, only one other woman, Sandra Edwards Peterson of Union County, ran for sheriff (and lost). Johnson is not running for another term in 2018. This year two women—B.J. Bayne in Polk County and Paula Dance in Pitt County—are running for sheriff.

Local Offices

As women have increased their educational and occupational credentials for politics, according to eligibility pool theory (Assendelft 2014), women are more likely to enter politics. A basic premise of this theory is that women's entry-level political participation expands the eligibility pool of women prepared for and interested in pursuing positions at the state or national levels.

This idea of creating a pipeline for women seeking higher office has been challenged by researchers (Deckman, 2007; Carrol and Sanbonmatsu, 2010). These and other scholars argue there is a gender difference in terms of the motivation men and women have for seeking office that makes this "stepping stone" idea less relevant to women. Most women decide to run for office because they want to fix a problem in their community, not necessarily because they are striving for the power of higher office. Women in local offices have much longer tenures in these offices than do men, often serving their entire public service careers on, for example, the county school board without ever desiring to seek a higher office.

Barriers to elected office at the local level are often considered to be less significant than those at the state or federal level. First, there are more opportunities in North Carolina. Almost 90 percent of the elected offices in North Carolina are at the county or municipal level. In addition, many of these races are nonpartisan, have little media coverage, and are less

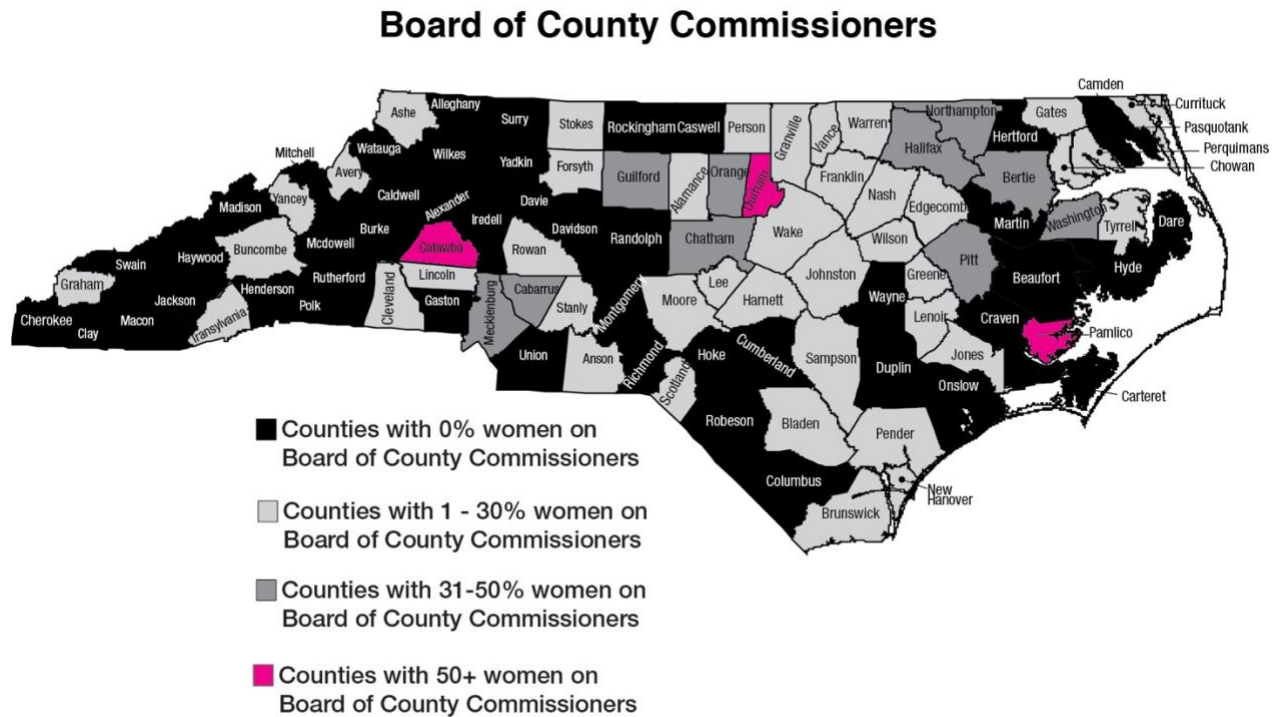
expensive than races for other offices. Most of the positions are part-time and do not require women (or their families) to relocate.

However, despite the lower barriers to running, underrepresentation is still a significant issue for women in local offices. In some instances, the number of women serving in these offices has stalled or even declined over the last decade. It is also the case that the clearest divide between urban and rural North Carolina exists. In urban areas, women are well represented on boards of county commissioners, city and town councils, and school boards. In some rural areas of North Carolina, women are completely absent in these local offices.

County Offices

The legislative branch of local government in all 100 North Carolina counties is the board of county commissioners. These boards are very powerful in the state as they set property tax rates and approve spending on a wide range of services including safety and public education. Across the state, the boards range in size and how the commissioners are elected – at-large or by district – and even in terms of how the board chair is selected.

Women are estimated to hold between 25-30 percent of council positions – county, as well as city and town – across the nation. Women are greatly underrepresented on the boards of county commissioners in North Carolina, and there has been a decline over the last ten years. In 2018, only 14.7 percent of the county commissioners across the state are women. This is a decline from 16 percent in 2016. Most counties have no or relatively few women serving on their boards of county commissioners, as the map below shows.



It is a stark reality that almost half the counties in North Carolina—46 counties—have no women serving on the board of county commissioners. This is an increase from 2005 when 40 counties had no women serving and a decrease from 2015 when 44 counties had no women serving.

There are, however, some counties that have achieved gender parity in terms of their boards of county commissioners. Catawba, Durham, and Pamlico counties have at least 50 percent of the boards made up by women.

The question of gender equity at the county level is particularly important given the nature of the issues that boards of county commissioners debate. Spending on education, health, public safety, child and senior care are just some of the issues where women are not shaping the debate in almost half of North Carolina's counties. The issue, as discussed in the previous section on women candidates, is that few women run for county commissioner—just over 22 percent of the candidates in 2018 are women. And, in 40 of the 46 counties in which there are no women serving on the board of county commissioners, there are no women running. This guarantees at least 40 percent of the counties will continue having no women in charge of deciding policies at the county level.

Register of Deeds

Each county in North Carolina has a register of deeds, an elected official that oversees recording and keeping important records for citizens of the county. The office manages vital records – births, deaths, marriages, etc. – and also property transactions.

Candidates for register of deeds are elected through partisan elections, although the office rarely deals with partisan issues, with the exception being the issues of marriage licenses. Historically, this office has attracted more women candidates because it is perceived as less prestigious than other elected offices and is not a stepping-stone to higher office in most cases.

Of the 100 registers of deeds in North Carolina, 75 percent are women.

LAURA PARNELL

*Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Catawba District*



Educator Laura Parnell always wanted to get involved in public service, but wasn't sure how to get involved or what type of office would allow her to serve most effectively. In 2011 Parnell attended the Women in Office Institute offered by the North

Carolina Center for Women in Public Service, a multi-partisan training program.

"There I got to talk to exceptional women from around North Carolina about the possibilities that exist for women serving at the municipal or state level," said Parnell. "The faculty impressed upon me that most women decide to seek appointed or elected office because they care about solving problems in their communities."

After thinking about possibilities in Catawba County, Parnell decided to seek a position on the Soil and Water

Conservation Commission in 2016: "I wanted to run for a nonpartisan office before jumping into partisan offices," she said. "I also wanted to learn more about Catawba County and serving as a Soil & Water District Supervisor has exposed me to the county budget and working with county commissioners."

Since winning her commissioner seat, Parnell has developed a real understanding of public service, "Serving offers the opportunity to really dig into the issues we need to deal with for our county and make a difference for constituents."

A former school counselor and now a career development coordinator for Caldwell County Schools, Parnell agrees with most people that campaigning for office is very challenging "even for an extrovert." She says one of the most important things women should do when considering a run for office is to "make sure the whole family—kids, parents, and grandparents—is ready to run. It is a family decision and they all must understand their part in it."

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor

After the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, there was pressure on North Carolina to pass legislation setting up a government agency and independent political unit to oversee soil and water conservation efforts. The N.C. General Statute 139 established the political office of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, an elected position in 96 districts. There are 95 county districts in North Carolina, along with a five-county district – the Albemarle District with the remaining counties – Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans. There are three elected positions per district, as well as two appointed positions.

The exception is the Albemarle District with 15 elected supervisors. These races are nonpartisan, and the supervisors establish conservation priorities for the district and advise how to spend federal, state, and local funds on these priorities.

Historically, these offices get little media or public attention, and the campaigns tend to be conducted with little publicity.

Currently 9.2 percent of the Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners are women, with 16 of these being appointed positions and 29 being elected.

Municipal Offices

As with boards of county commissioners, city and town councils in North Carolina would appear to be good opportunities for women to serve in elected offices. Most municipal elections in North Carolina are nonpartisan. City and town councils have nonpartisan reputations, attracting a diverse group of less experienced politicians who want to work on issues in which ideology plays a smaller role than in state legislative offices. Issues such as economic development, public safety, and quality of life issues are often seen as attractive to community leaders with no aspirations for higher office (Beck, 1991).

Nationally, women comprise approximately 32 percent of city council members (City Mayor 2017). This is an increase of five percentage points over 2012, showing that across the nation, the number of women serving on their municipal councils is increasing. It is also the case nationally that more women serve on the councils of medium and larger cities and fewer in smaller communities.

In North Carolina, 3,400 people serve on city and town councils. Of those aldermen, commissioners, and councilors, 27.4 percent are women—a significant increase over the 23 percent from 2015. Of these municipal councils and boards, 16.1% had no women serving on them. These were primarily smaller towns, with a few medium-sized cities, like Wilson, included. On the other hand, 9.2 percent of the boards and councils had a majority of women.⁶ Some were larger cities—like Durham and Greensboro—but this list also included smaller towns like Star and Whispering Pines.

Mayors

The vast majority of municipalities in the United States and North Carolina have the position of mayor. Municipalities vary in their selection of the mayor based on the size and structure of the city council and whether there is a hired city or town manager.

⁶ Cities and towns with more than 50 percent of women on their municipal boards and councils: Askewville, Autryville, Biltmore Forest, Boone, Booneville, Bunn, Brunswick, Calypso, Cameron, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Cofield, Dobbins Heights, Durham, Earl, East Arcadia, Greensboro, Harrellsville, Holly Ridge, Lawndale, Littleton, Marshville, Maysville, McFarlan, Mineral Springs, Newland, Parkton, Parmele, Pinebluff, Pinetops, Pink Hall, Polkton, Proctorville, Randleman, Rayham, Rennert, Ronda, Rowland, Saratoga, Simpson, Spring Lake, St. Helena, Stanley, Star, Wake Forest, Walstonburg, Whispering Pines, Waxhaw, and Whitakers.

As of March 2018, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 21.8 percent of mayors of cities larger than 30,000 residents were women (CAWP 2018). In North Carolina's cities of over 30,000 people, 25 percent of the 30 cities has a woman mayor. For all North Carolina cities, 18.6 percent have women mayors.

The three largest cities in the state—Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh—all have women mayors,⁷ a development that the U.S. Conference of Mayors has noted that is becoming a national trend. In 2018, 19 of the largest 100 cities in the nation are led by women mayors, a large increase from over a decade ago when 12 of the same cities had a female mayor.

VI LYLES

Mayor of Charlotte

Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles has always acted when she sees problems. A former budget director for the city of Charlotte, Lyles was on city council and serving as mayor pro-tem when she decided to challenge incumbent Mayor Jennifer Roberts in 2017. Charlotte had gone through the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott by police in September 2016 and the resulting protests, as well as fallout from Charlotte's decision to pass a



controversial ordinance to protect the rights of transgender individuals to use public bathrooms of their choice.

“After the protests and the loss of jobs when Council adopted the non-discrimination ordinance, I felt the city needed

collaborative leadership with a vision for the city. My

vision is for everyone who works in Charlotte to be able to live in Charlotte.”

The 2017 municipal elections in Charlotte not only produced a new mayor, but six new members of city council. Given the national attention on Charlotte as a result of the Scott shooting and battle with the North Carolina General Assembly, who passed House Bill 2 as a response to the Charlotte anti-discrimination ordinance, Lyles identified her biggest challenge as “the integration of new members of Council.”

The Charlotte City Council is one of the most diverse in the state in terms of people of color and women serving. Lyles believes it is important that women be represented not just on city councils, but at all levels of government: “Research has shown better decisions are reached when women are engaged in decision making. We are empowering our voices.”

Lyle's advice for women and others deciding to run for public office could be considered her motto: “Start with your passion, engage others with some passion, and set a goal to make a difference.”

School Board

Most school boards in the United States are elected, including all 114 school boards in North Carolina. Historically, in the country and state, school boards have been elected offices that have had a higher percentage of women serving than in other offices.

Two theories suggest women will have greater opportunities and successes running for school board positions than other elected offices. First, school board positions are less prestigious, thus making the seats less desirable and less

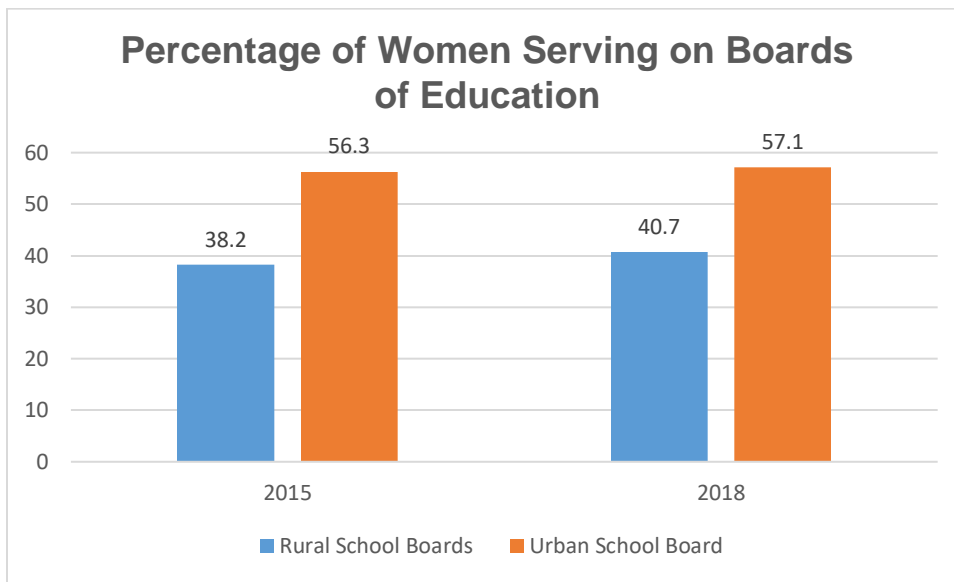
⁷ Vi Lyles of Charlotte, Nancy Vaughan of Greensboro, and Nancy McFarlane of Raleigh

competitive (MacManus et al., 2006). Second, women are considered to have natural credibility in the area of education policy as mothers, teachers, and childcare providers (Bers, 1978). Typically, school board positions are seen as attracting a different sort of officeholder – those interested more in policy or social impact than politics or a political career (Deckman, 2007).

Deckman argues that school board positions, because they are typically perceived as “apolitical,” do not become a pipeline for women seeking other political offices. Her research demonstrates that 76 percent of the women serving on school boards have no interest in running for higher office.

Nationally, about 40 percent of school board members are women. In North Carolina, 43.6 percent of school board members in 2018 are women, an increase from 41 percent of school boards in 2015.

Despite the relatively long history of women serving on school boards in North Carolina and the perception that women are more credible in educational policy, there remains a gap between the number of women serving on school boards in urban counties and women serving on school boards in rural counties, as the figure below shows.



Although women do not make up a majority of the total school board members in North Carolina, 71.9 percent of the school boards in the state have women comprising at least 30 percent of their members, meeting the threshold established by Dahlrup for women’s leadership style and policy perspectives to potentially influence how the boards operate.

There is still a rural-urban divide in terms of women’s membership on school boards, but this difference is less than other offices. On rural boards of education, 67 percent of the boards meet that 30 percent threshold, including Stokes County which has a board of all women. On urban boards of education, 88.2 percent of these bodies meet that threshold.

Conclusion

There is a wide disparity in terms of women serving in elected office. At one end of the spectrum are positions such as Register of Deeds, Clerk of Superior Court, and school board member, where women are close to or at gender parity. In other elected positions around the state—including major policy making positions in the General Assembly or on county boards of commissioners, women are significantly underrepresented.

The most shocking fact is that there are a significant number of municipalities and counties that have no women representing them in policy making positions. Just over 16 percent of the cities and towns, as well as 46 percent of the counties have only men in policy-making positions. The problem is most acute in rural North Carolina and, instead of seeing things improve in terms of gender parity as we get well into the 21st century, these patterns are fully entrenched or, in the case of county commissioners, getting worse.

WOMEN IN APPOINTED OFFICES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Appointed offices exist at the local and state level in North Carolina. Counties have a wide range of boards and commissions ranging from the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to the Historic Preservation Board. Wake County, for example, has over 60 appointed boards or commissions. The State of North Carolina has almost 400 boards and commissions. Some of these boards advise the governor or leaders in the General Assembly, while others regulate professions, such as dentists, lawyers, or certified public accountants; still others make policy, such as the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Most of these boards and commissions—around 75%—are advisory. They are important for lawmakers as these appointed officeholders make recommendations for new laws, regulations, and budgets in the areas they oversee. Many of these boards and commissions have relatively small demand for appointments, and some have unfilled seats from year-to-year.

A much smaller group of boards and commissions, often referred to as “Power Boards,” have policy-making authority. These are highly sought-after appointments and are often reserved for political allies to the appointing officials. These boards and commissions get a great deal of public and media scrutiny.

Although appointed board and commission members have less power than members of the General Assembly, these boards and commissions are important for gender representation for two major reasons. First, they do have power in their respective areas. Licensing boards, for example, set standards for professions from nursing to electrolysis technicians. Power boards, such as the North Carolina Utilities Commission or the University of North Carolina Board of Governors affect the rates consumers and students pay. Without women advocates on these power boards, important perspectives are easily ignored.

Second, appointed boards and commissions are often launching pads for women who want to run for elected office. Sanbonmatsu, Carrol, and Walsh (2009) found that 65% of women who eventually run for office began their public careers by serving in appointed office. This is not the case for men.

Women’s Representation on Boards and Commissions

Overall, women are underrepresented on state-level boards and commissions. Women hold 32.5% of the positions on all state-level boards and commissions. There are four boards on which women hold all of the seats – the Council for Women, the Dietetics/Nutrition Commission, the Museum of History Associates, and the Western Residence Board of Directors, which is a board that looks after the North Carolina governor’s mansion in Asheville.

A significant number of boards—34 boards and commissions, or 9%—have zero women on them. Some of these female-free boards are very important and influential boards like the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, the Parole Commission, and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. As Figure 1 demonstrates, 170 of the state-level boards and commissions have 30% or fewer women. If, in fact, 30% women is all that is needed for women to have a true voice on a board or commission, women have at least some influence on about half of North Carolina’s boards and commissions. However, if as McLennan and Manzo (2017) found, the 51% number is correct, though, women have a voice on only 17% of North Carolina’s boards and commissions.

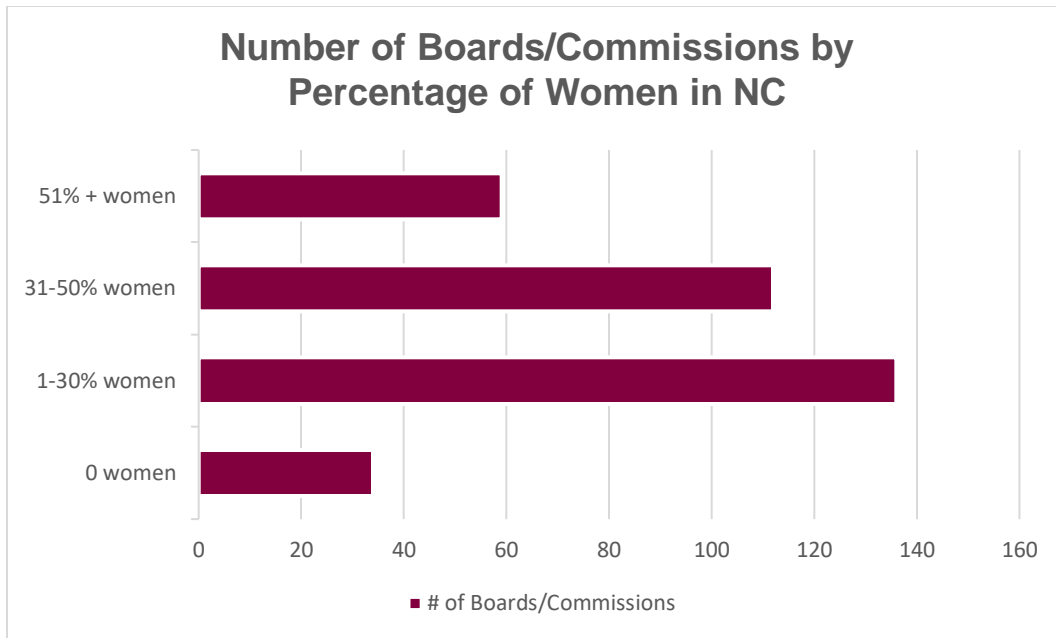


Figure 1

In comparing these two types of boards and commissions in North Carolina, the Power Boards are dramatically more underrepresented by women than are the other advisory boards and commissions. In Figure 2 below, only the Industrial Commissions could be considered to be at gender parity, while only four others—Banking, Education, Lottery, and Social Services—would have women represented at the 30 percent threshold or higher. Even the average for all the Power Board positions is under the 30 percent figure (28.2%), meaning major decision-making boards in the state operate without the significant impact of women.

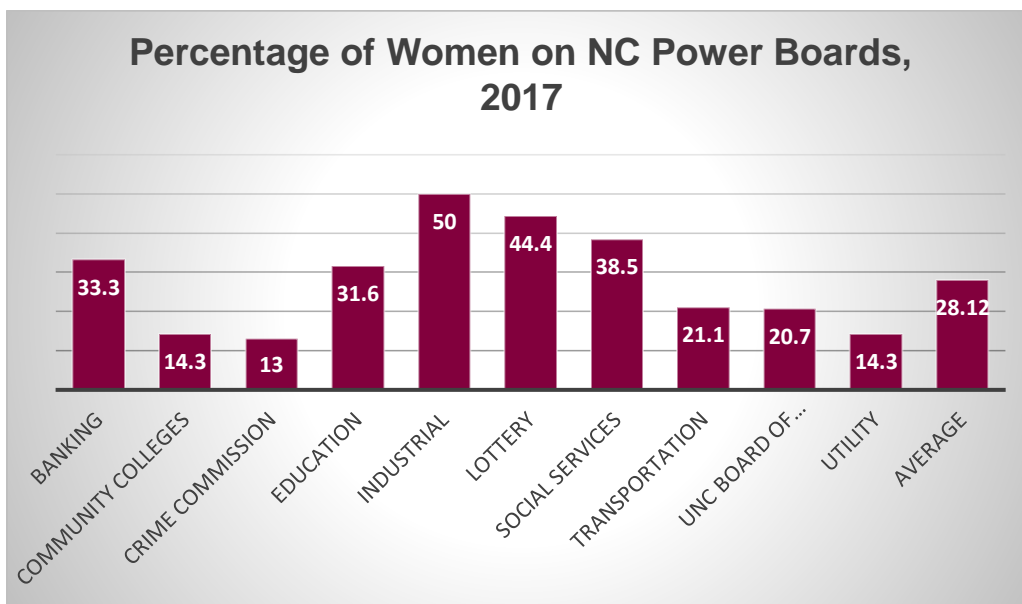


Figure 2

Examining the Power Boards in North Carolina from 1999, 2009, 2013, and 2017 reveals improvement for gender parity is very uneven and inconsistent. In Figure 3 below, for example, the Banking Commission, has experienced consistent growth in women appointees, but in the cases of many other of the Power Boards, recent membership reflects fewer, rather than more women appointees.

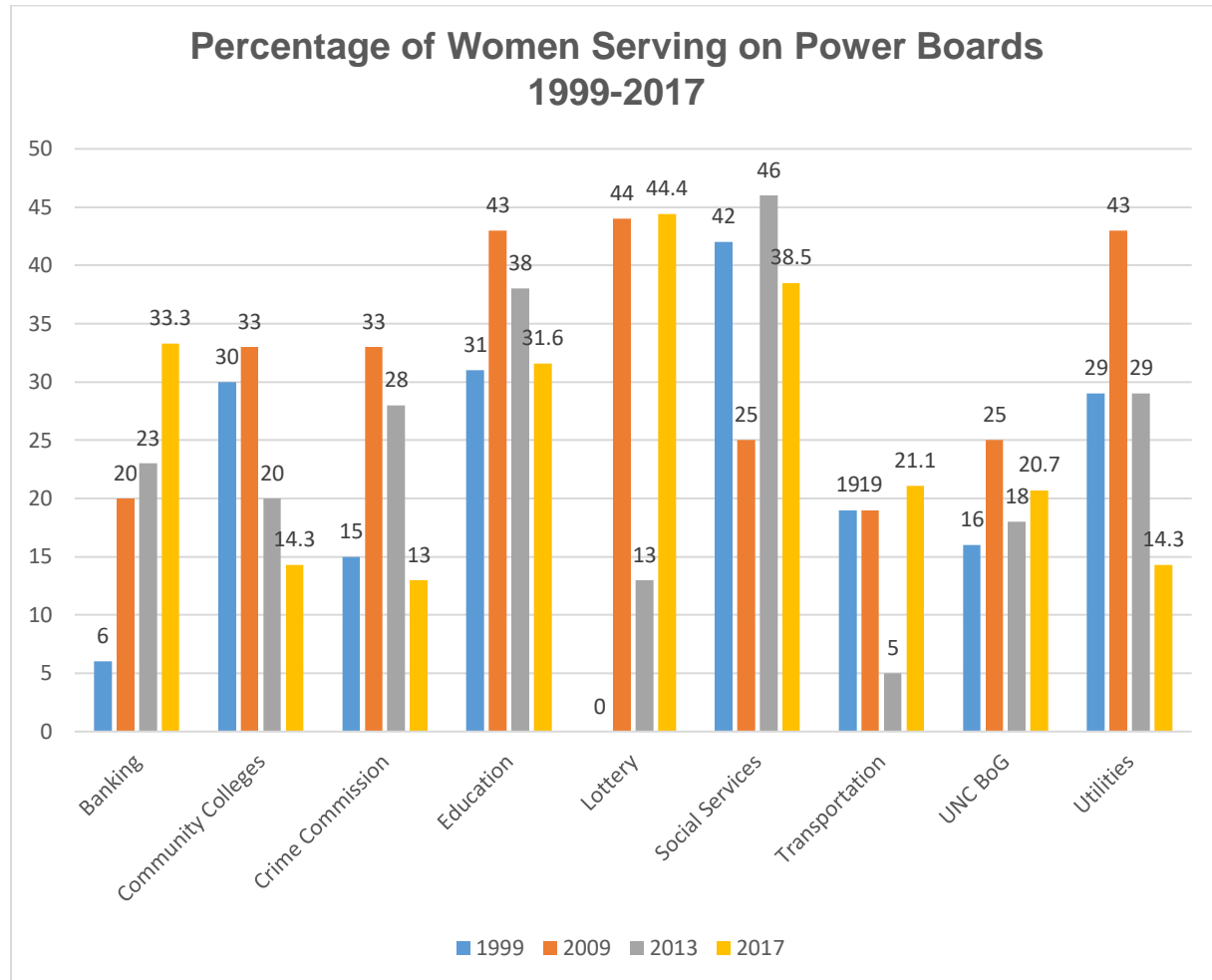


Figure 3

If anything, the trend of the number of women serving on Power Boards reflects the same trend as women holding elected offices in North Carolina, both showing a decline around 2010. Although no accurate data exist on the number of women applying for appointed boards and commissions in the state, including Power Boards, it is reasonable to assume that there was a drop-off of women applying for political appointments, just as North Carolina experienced a decline in women deciding to run for elected office around the same time.

Historically, the two Power Boards with the highest percentage of women members have been the Board of Education and the Social Services Commission. Both of these appointed groups deal with issues more stereotypically associated with women, as opposed to economic development or transportation.

Only two boards and commissions, the Education Board and the Social Services Commission, consistently exceed the 30 percent threshold that researchers like Dahlerup and others suggest is the tipping point for women to significantly affect the appointed body. Granted, the Governor’s Crime Commission and the Utilities Commission are just beneath that threshold, but a majority of the Power Boards do not come close to that figure, suggesting women are not fully using their preferred leadership styles or getting all points of view completely vetted.

The results demonstrate some consistent truths about women on Power Boards. First is that men are overrepresented on Power Boards. Second, appointment patterns and membership on Power Boards have changed little, which demonstrates a fundamental weakness in the system across time and different political parties in charge of appointments. Third, there have been few changes in terms of the types of Power Boards most likely to have more women members, suggesting that even among Power Boards, there is a pecking order.

These results are particularly interesting in North Carolina because, in 1999, the General Assembly passed and Governor Easley signed a law, **Reports on gender-proportionate appointments to statutorily created decision-making regulatory bodies**, encouraging the state to achieve gender parity in appointments to state boards and commissions. It appears as though this law has little teeth in terms of causing appointing officials, like the governor or speaker of the state house, to recruit qualified women to boards and commissions.

One possible solution might be to adopt a law like Iowa has that mandates gender parity on state boards. This law, passed in 1987, has produced results, as shown in Figure 4 below:

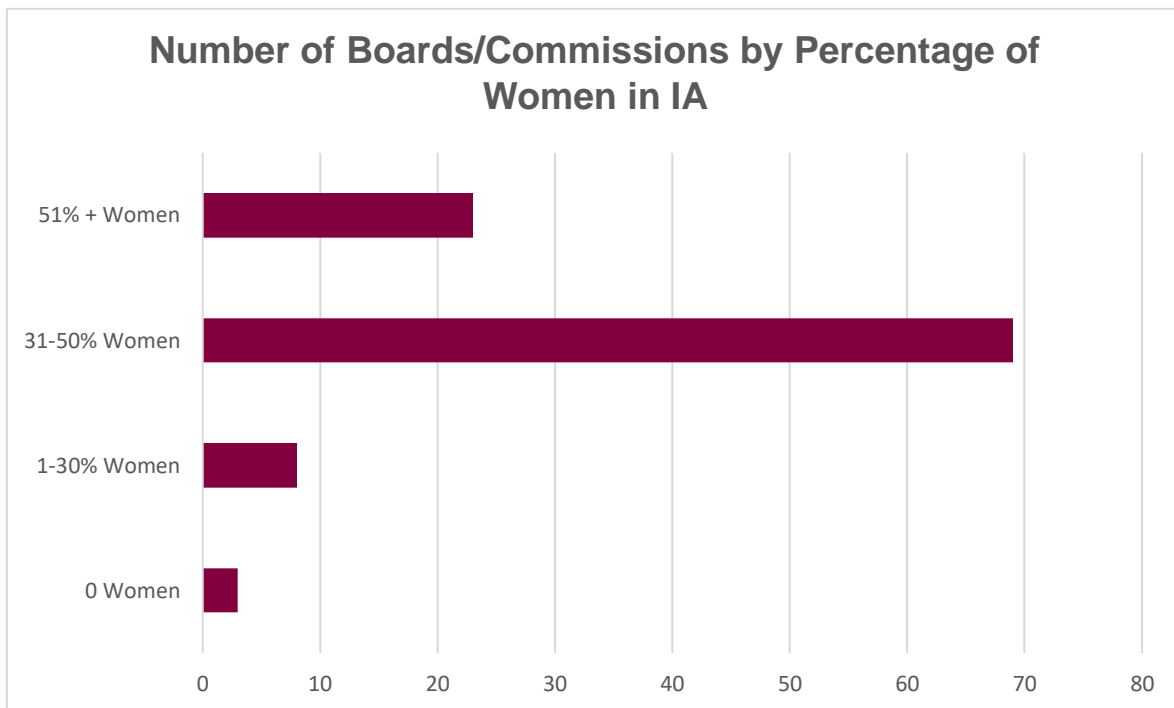


Figure 4

One potential explanation for the lack of gender parity on state boards and commissions is that women simply do not apply in sufficient numbers for openings, even when qualified. As Sidorsky (2015) argues, there is an ambition gap between men and women seeking appointed offices, especially the higher profile ones. As Manzo and McLennan (2018) have found through surveys and interviews with potential applicants for boards and commissions, women, who may be imminently qualified, still doubt their abilities and are uncertain that they would be appointed, even after being encouraged by a government official or another person of prominence.

Since appointed offices, like boards and commissions, are important in-and-of-themselves, and are the springboard for many women to seek elected offices at the local and state level, this continued disparity in terms of women's representation has short and long term implications for North Carolina. In the short run, it means women's perspectives may not be sufficiently heard on policy issues and professional qualifications. In the long run, we may be narrowing the pipeline for women serving in elected policy-making positions.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2018 *Status of Women in North Carolina Politics* report may be surprising to some and disappointing to others, particularly because it shows that North Carolina has seen a drop in women candidates since 2015. Further, the report shows the number of elected and appointed officeholders has not improved across the board.

For those who study gender and politics, the results are hardly surprising. The fundamentals of North Carolina politics for women have changed little in recent years. Campaigns for many offices—not just high profile offices like governor or Congress—have become more time consuming, expensive, and negative. The idea of “election aversion” is something that affects many qualified people, not just women, who decide running for office is just not worth it.

North Carolina, especially in many rural areas, has a political culture of male candidates that may make it more difficult for women to see themselves running for and serving in office. In many communities across the state, not only are there no women currently serving in any offices, but there never have been. Women in those communities who aspire to serve in an appointed or elected office have no role models or mentors in their communities.

Even candidate recruitment is challenging for political parties. As we know from academic research, women candidates are cultivated (i.e., identified, encouraged, and otherwise groomed) over time, but the parties often work with a tight schedule and limited resources for recruiting across all one hundred counties.

There are also some positives about the 2018 election cycle and beyond. More women of color are running, as well as younger women. Anecdotally, the stories of a 23-year old Muslim woman making a credible run for the Raleigh city council in 2017 and the diversification of city councils in Charlotte and Greensboro mean that, in places, politics is becoming more representative of the citizens.

With both the negatives and positives contained in this report, the following recommendations should be considered so the next decade really improves the situation for women in North Carolina politics.

Media Recommendations

1. Stories about new women candidates are fine, but a handful of candidates running for a few offices does not mean this is the “Year of the Woman.” Popular narratives such as this may apply in some places in the country, but not in North Carolina, so care should be used in framing candidate and campaign stories.
2. More stories should focus on the ways in which women govern. There are examples across the state of women majority boards, commissions, and councils. Comparing how those bodies function, in comparison to male majority ones, would be fresh and useful.
3. More focus on the problem of gender disparity and how this issue ties in with stories that we are too used to seeing—dysfunctional political institutions, uncivil discourse, etc.—may also be illuminating if we truly seek to understand ways to engage more women in politics. Electing women is not the cure-all for all political problems, but research supports the idea that some policy problems will be improved by many more women in office.

Lawmakers and Political Parties

1. The current law encouraging gender parity on appointed boards and commissions is toothless and should be enforced or replaced.
2. Funds need to be appropriated for improvements to recruiting more women to serve on state boards and commissions. Finding and applying for vacancies on many boards and commissions is currently very

cumbersome. A more robust web-based system of advertising vacancies and a streamlined application process will improve the applicant pool and the number of women who apply.

3. Political parties should establish mentoring programs for prospective women candidates, particularly in underserved areas of the state. Connecting women who have served in office with women who are thinking about running is a low cost, high return investment for the parties.

Advocacy and Political Action Groups

1. There are many organizations across the state with interests that intersect with improving the gender parity situation. On college and university campuses, women's centers or women's studies departments raise important issues related to gender inequality, but they often miss the fundamental point that many of the changes they advocate for are best accomplished by electing more women to office.
2. Similarly, there are women's groups in the state who advocate for a variety of nonpartisan issues—improved education, accessible healthcare, or better election processes to name a few—who would also be well served by doing more candidate recruitment and training, especially in rural North Carolina.
3. There are organizations, like Lillian's List and the Institute of Political Leadership, that do quality work but simply do not touch enough citizens to make a dent in the problem of gender disparity. Other organizations should partner with organizations like these or others to make women's candidate recruitment part of their civic duty. The parties cannot nor should not be expected to carry the entire load for engaging more women in politics and as candidates for office.

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WOMEN OFFICE HOLDERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Cherie Berry	Secretary of Labor	Republican	Holly Grange	House 20	Republican
Elaine Marshall	Secretary of State	Democrat	Pricey Harrison	House 57	Democrat
Beth Wood State	Auditor	Democrat	Yvonne Holley	House 38	Democrat
Mandy Cohen	Secretary of Health and Human Services (appointed)		Julia Howard	House 79	Republican
Susi Hamilton	Secretary of Cultural Resources (appointed)		Pat Hurley	House 70	Republican
Machelle Sanders	Secretary of Department of Administration (appointed)		Verla Insko	House 56	Democrat
			Linda Johnson	House 83	Republican
			Susan Martin	House 8	Republican
			Pat McElraft	House 13	Republican
			Marcia Morey	House 30	Democrat
			Michele Presnell	House 118	Republican
			Bobbie Richardson	House 7	Democrat
			Sarah Stevens	House 90	Republican
			Evelyn Terry	House 71	Democrat
			Rena Turner	House 84	Republican
			Donna McDowell	White House 26	Republican

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

North Carolina Senate

Deanna Ballard	Senate 45	Republican
Tamara Barringer	Senate 17	Republican
Cathy Dunn	Senate 33	Republican
Valerie Foushee	Senate 23	Democrat
Kathy Harrington	Senate 43	Republican
Joyce Krawiec	Senate 31	Republican
Shirley Randleman	Senate 30	Republican
Gladys Robinson	Senate 28	Democrat
Vickie Sawyer	Senate 44	Republican
Erica Smith-Ingram	Senate 3	Democrat
Terry Van Duyn	Senate 49	Democrat
Joyce Waddell	Senate 40	Democrat
Trudy Wade	Senate 27	Republican

North Carolina House

Gale Adcock	House 41	Democrat
Cynthia Ball	House 49	Democrat
Mary Belk	House 88	Democrat
MaryAnn Black	House 29	Democrat
Beverly Boswell	House 6	Republican
Deb Butler	House 18	Democrat
Becky Carney	House 102	Democrat
Debra Conrad	House 74	Republican
Carla Cunningham	House 106	Democrat
Beverly Earle	House 101	Democrat
Jean Farmer-Butterfield	House 24	Democrat
Susan Fisher	House 114	Democrat
Rosa Gill	House 33	Democrat

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIARY

Supreme Court

Cherie Beasley	Associate Justice	Democrat
Robin Hudson	Associate Justice	Democrat
Barbara Jackson	Associate Justice	Republican

Court of Appeals

Wanda Bryant	Judge	Democrat
Ann Marie Calabria	Judge	Republican
Lucy Inman	Judge	Democrat
Linda McGee Chief	Judge	Democrat
Donna Stroud	Judge	Republican
Valerie Zachary	Judge	Republican

Superior Court of North Carolina*

Gale Adams	District 12
Carla Archie	District 26
Lisa Bell	District 26
Susan Bray	District 18
Elaine Bushfan	District 14
Karen Eady-Williams	District 26
Phyllis Gorham	District 5
Julia Gullett	District 22A
Lori Hamilton	District 22B

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Claire Hill	District 12	Patricia Evans	District 14
Patrice Hinnant	District 18	Kimberly Fletcher	District 18
Alma Hinton	District 6	Donna Forga	District 30
Rebecca Holt	District 10	Angela Foster	District 18
Ola Lewis	District 13	Teresa Freeman	District 6
Imelda Pate	District 8	Elizabeth Freshwater-Smith	District 7
Angela Puckett	District 17B	Carolyn Gore	District 13
Maryann Tally	District 12	Masaman Hamadani	District 10
Carolyn Thompson	District 9	Tyyawdi Hands	District 26
Anna Wagoner	District 19C	Pauline Hankins	District 13
Tanya Wallace	4th Division	Addie Harris Rawls	District 11
North Carolina District Court*		Denise Hartsfield	District 21
Karen Alexander	District 03B	Wendy Hazelton	District 03A
Kimberly Best-Staton	District 26	Elizabeth Heath	District 8
Aretha Blake	District 26	Tracy Hewett	District 26
Marion Boone	District 17B	Patricia Hilburn	District 03A
Monica Bousman	District 10	Tabatha Holliday	District 18
Brenda Branch	District 6	Jeanie Houston	District 23
Alicia Brooks	District 26	Angela Hoyle	District 27A
Athena Brooks	District 29B	Laurie Hutchins	District 21
Betty Brown	District 18	Ericka James	District 8
Deborah Brown	District 22A	Regina Joe	District 16A
Angela Bullard	District 18	Donna Johnson	District 19A
Susan Burch	District 18	Joy Jones	District 11
Caroline Burnette	District 9	Julie Keppler	District 28
Samantha Cabe	District 15B	Toni King	District 12
Lori Christian	District 10	Jacquelyn Lee	District 11
Emily Cowan	District 29B	Monica Leslie	District 30
Melinda Crouch	District 5	Amber Malarney	District 1
Avery Crump	District 18	Jayrene Maness	District 19B
Lora Cubbage	District 18	Christy Mann	District 26
Jenna Culler	District 26	Amanda Maris	District 14
Tonia Cutchin	District 18	Lindsey McKee	District 5
Judith Daniels	District 16B	Ricky McKoy-Mitchell	District 26
Beth Dixon	District 19C	Paige McThenia	District 26
Susan Dotson-Smith	District 28	Lisa Menefee	District 21
Andrea Dray	District 28	Vershenia Moody	District 6
Ashleigh Dunston	District 10	Sherrill Murrell	District 15B
Margaret Eagles	District 10	Kathryn Overby	District 15A
Kristina Earwood	District 30	Regina Parker	District 2
Rebecca Eggers Gryder	District 24	Mary Paul	District 22B
Sherri Elliott	District 25	Laura Powell	District 29A
		Camille Prince	District 21

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Rachel Joyner	Nash	Democrat	Tonia Hampton	McDowell	Republican
Jan Kennedy	New Hanover	Republican	Karen Hardesty	Carteret	Republican
Jennifer Knox	Wake	Republican	Kimberly Hargrove	Harnett	Democrat
Tonya Leggett	Martin	Democrat	Betsy Harnage	Cleveland	Republican
Mabel Lowman	Burke	Democrat	Judy Harrison	Wayne	Democrat
Tammy McEntyre	Yancey	Democrat	Cathy Horton	Gates	Democrat
Evelyn McLeod	Hoke	Democrat	Joanne Huntley	Anson	Democrat
Ann Melton	Jackson	Democrat	Camille Hurst	Hoke	Democrat
Pamela Minshev	Wayne	Democrat	Susan Jobe	Yancey	Democrat
Denise Moulden	Washington	Democrat	Lynne Johnson	Forsyth	Democrat
Teresa O'Dell	Surry	Republican	Diana Kirkland	Swain	Democrat
Brandy Pugh	Hyde	Democrat	Tammie Krauss	Camden	Republican
Sara Beth Rhodes	Pitt	Democrat	Kathy Laws	Mitchell	Republican
Lisa Scales	Cumberland	Democrat	Lynn Lewis	Pamlico	Democrat
Angie Sexton	Tyrrell	Democrat	Vicki Locklear	Robeson	Democrat
Terri Sharp	Craven	Democrat	Susan Lockridge	Gaston	Republican
Kim Sigmon	Catawba	Republican	Suzanne Lowder	Stanly	Republican
Hester Sitton	Swain	Democrat	Krista Lowe	Randolph	Republican
Shelena Smith	Robeson	Democrat	Phyllis Maney	Clay	Democrat
Becky Spragins	Halifax	Democrat	Judy Martin	Moore	Republican
Dawn Stroud	Lenoir	Republican	Vanzolla McMurren	Dare	Democrat
Susie Thomas	Lee	Democrat	Anne Melvin	Nash	Democrat
Carol White	Edgecomb	Democrat	Ginny Mitchell	Caswell	Democrat
			Nancy Murphy	Greene	Democrat
			Lisa Nichols	Pitt	Democrat
Registrar of Deeds			Stephanie Norman	Burke	Republican
Yvonne Alston	Warren	Democrat	Cindy Ownbey	Transylvania	Democrat
Christie Avens	Halifax	Democrat	Beverly Parks	Bladen	Democrat
Tammy Beasley	New Hanover	Republican	Carolyn Pecora	Vance	Democrat
Eleanor Bradshaw	Sampson	Democrat	Melissa Pipkin	Montgomery	Democrat
Robin Braswell	Edgecomb	Democrat	Becky Pollard	Onslow	Republican
Pamela Britt	Lee	Democrat	Joyce Pritchard	Pasquotank	Democrat
Kandance Bullock	Columbus	Democrat	Susan Rector	Madison	Democrat
Brenda Clemmons	Brunswick	Republican	Gene Reynolds	Tyrrell	Democrat
Carolyn Comer	Surry	Democrat	Pam Rich	Lenoir	Democrat
Sharon Davis	Durham	Democrat	Sherri Richard	Craven	Democrat
Brandi Davis	Franklin	Democrat	Sherri Rogers	Haywood	Democrat
Renee Dellinger	Avery	Republican	Deaett Roten	Ashe	Democrat
Daphne Dockery	Cherokee	Republican	Miranda Roupe	Alleghany	Democrat
Linda Douglas	Richmond	Democrat	Amy Shook	Watauga	Republican
Jacqueline Frierson	Perquimans	Democrat	Misty Smithey	Wilkes	Republican
Lynn Gilliard	Chowan	Democrat	Donna Spencer	Catawba	Republican
Crystal Gilliard	Union	Republican	Merita Spencer	Hyde	Democrat
Susan Gray	Jones	Democrat	Carolyn Stewart	Graham R	Republican
Kimberly Griffin	Martin	Democrat			
Denise Hall	Currituck	Republican			

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Lisa Stith	Wilson	Democrat	Diana Hales	Chatham	Democrat
Melanie Storey	Hertford	Democrat	Viola Harris	Edgecombe	Democrat
Kathy Taylor	Granville	Democrat	Martha Hicks	Avery	Republican
Rachel Thomas	Rutherford	Republican	Sue Hinman	Granville	Republican
Jennifer Whitehurst	Beaufort	Republican	Linda Hofler	Gates	Democrat
Shelia Whitmire	Polk	Republican	Jessica Holmes	Wake	Democrat
Robin Williams	Northampton	Democrat	Ann Holton	Pamlico	Democrat
Sharon Willoughby	Pender	Republican	Diane Honeycutt	Cabarrus	Republican
Annie Wilson	Bertie	Democrat	Karen Howard	Chatham	Democrat
Tonya Wilson	Person	Democrat	Brenda Howerton	Durham	Democrat
Kathy Young	Stokes	Republican	Ann Huggins	Pitt	Democrat

County Commissioners

Susan Allen	Cleveland	Republican	Sondra Ipock-Riggs	Jones	Republican
Jill Austin	Yancey	Democrat	Wendy Jacobs	Durham	Democrat
Kitty Barnes	Catawba	Republican	Carolyn Johnson	Halifax	Democrat
Lisa Barnes	Nash	Republican	Tracey Johnson	Washington	Democrat
Missy Baskerville	Pamlico	Republican	Ronda Jones	Stokes	Republican
Anna Baucom	Anson	Democrat	Tracey Kendrick	Person	Republican
Ernestine Bazemore	Bertie	Democrat	Patti Kersey	Chowan	Republican
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara	Buncombe	Democrat	Judy Klusman	Rowan	Republican
Barbara Beatty	Catawba	Republican	Patricia Kusek	New Hanover	Democrat
Susan Blizzard	Greene	Democrat	Faith 'Faye' Lacey	Avery	Republican
Candy Bohmert	Pamlico	Republican	Vilma Leake	Mecklenburg	Democrat
Linda Brewer	Halifax	Democrat	Tammy Lee	Bertie	Democrat
Mia Burroughs	Orange	Democrat	Sue Lee	Sampson	Republican
Sherry Butler	Catawba	Republican	Fondella Leigh	Perquimans	Democrat
Heidi Carter	Durham	Democrat	Page Lemel	Transylvania	Republican
Kay Cashion	Guilford	Democrat	Janet Lowder	Stanly	Republican
Carolyn Coleman	Guilford	Democrat	Sherry Lucas	Wilson	Democrat
Pat Cotham	Mecklenburg	Democrat	Anita McCall	Lincoln	Republican
Jeannette Council	Cumberland	Democrat	Carol McCall	Scotland	Democrat
Amy Dalrymple	Lee County	Democrat	Barbara McKoy	Harnett	Democrat
JoAnn Daniels	Wilson	Democrat	Ashley Morgan	Stanly	Republican
Shelley Dickerson	Franklin	Democrat	Ophelia Munn-Goins	Bladen	Democrat
Mary (Kitty) Etheridge	Currituck	Republican	Jacqueline Newton	Pender	Republican
Carolyn Faines	Vance	Democrat	Connie Orr	Graham	Republican
Yolanda Feimster	Vance	Democrat	Mary Perkins-Williams	Pitt	Democrat
J. Carlvena Foster	Guilford	Democrat	Paula Perry	Ashe	Republican
Ellen Frost	Buncombe	Democrat	Jennifer Pierce	Warren	Democrat
Amy Galey	Alamance	Republican	Elizabeth 'Liz' Poole	Cabarrus	Republican
Betty Gholston	Scotland	Democrat	Cookie Pope	Johnston	Democrat
Catherine Graham	Moore	Democrat	Evelyn Powell	Edgecombe	Democrat
Fannie Greene	Northampton	Democrat	Pat Prescott	Pamlico	Democrat
Nina Griswell	Tyrrell County	Democrat	Renee Price	Orange	Democrat
			Ellen Reckhow	Durham	Democrat

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Penny Rich	Orange	Democrat	Gwen Minton	Wilkes	Elected
Lou Richardson	Nash	Democrat	Tammy Mull	Clay	Appointed
Jennifer Riddick	Washington	Democrat	Laura Parnell	Catawba	Elected
Geneva Riddick-Faulkner	Northampton	Democrat	Shirley Pendergrass	Franklin	Appointed
Ella Scarborough	Mecklenburg	Democrat	Vicky Porter	Cabarrus	Elected
Vancine Sturdivant	Anson	Democrat	Donna Raye Jones	Madison	Elected
Linda Sutton	Lenoir	Democrat	Gerda Rhodes	Washington	Elected
Pat Sykes	Brunswick	Republican	Marlene Salyer	Craven	Elected
Ashley Trivette	Bladen	Republican	Joan Slade	Caswell	Elected
Beth Ward	Pitt	Democrat	Pamela Stroupe	Lincoln	Elected
Mary Wells	Nash	Democrat	Louise Suggs	Buncombe	Appointed
Gloria Whisenhunt	Forsyth	Republican	Beth Tucker	Forsyth	Elected

Soil and Water District Supervisor

Danielle Adams	Durham	Elected
Renee Anderson	Edgecombe	Elected
Robin Armstrong	Gaston	Appointed
Pam Bell	Macon	Elected
Barbara Bleiweis	Mecklenburg	Elected
Kathy Bunton	Alexander	Elected
Kate Campau	Rockingham	Appointed
Nancy Carter	Mecklenburg	Elected
Ann Coleman	Avery	Elected
Susan Devine	Catawba	Appointed
Lora Eddy	Dare	Elected
Erin Fleckenstein	Dare	Appointed
Erica Gallon	Harnett	Elected
Anna Gerringer Amoriello	Guilford	Elected
Sheri Greene	Cleveland	Elected
Mattie Hamilton	Tyrrell	Elected
Betty Hamm	Vance	Elected
Nicole Hatley	Carpenter Brown Creek	Elected
Sue Hayes	New Hanover	Appointed
Joanne Hendrix	Hoke	Appointed
Ann Herring	Duplin	Elected
Becky Hines	Lenoir	Appointed
Elise Israel	Buncombe	Elected
Melinda James	Macon	Appointed
Terri Kirby Hathaway	Dare	Appointed
Margaret Knight	Edgecombe	Appointed
Jo Linville	Yadkin	Appointed
Lynn Massey	Caswell	Elected
Karen McAdams	Orange	Appointed
Donna Mills	Wayne County	Appointed

Jenna Wadsworth	Wake	Elected
Emily Walton	Onslow	Elected
Nikki Young	Jackson	Appointed

City and Town Councils

Gayle Andrews	Alderman	Alamance
Richelle Phillips	Alderman	Andrews
Maggie Tuttle	Alderman	Black Mountain
Ruth Waddell	Alderman	Bolton
R. Mills	Alderman	Bolton
Sue Noblitt	Alderman	Brookford
Janine Crisp	Alderman	Bryson City
Heidi Ramsey-Woodard	Alderman	Bryson City
Gail Mull	Alderman	Canton
Kristina Smith	Alderman	Canton
Jacquelyn Gist	Alderman	Carrboro
Barbara Foushee	Alderman	Carrboro
Randee Haven-Odonnell	Alderman	Carrboro
Bethany Chaney	Alderman	Carrboro
Sandra Owens	Alderman	Columbia
Kimberly Sigmon	Alderman	Connelly Springs
Jane Milanovich	Alderman	Crossnore
Hannah Smith	Alderman	Crossnore
Darlene Morrow	Alderman	Dallas
Audrey Hart	Alderman	Dover
Phronice Johnson	Alderman	East Spencer
Tammy Corpening	Alderman	East Spencer
Deloris High	Alderman	East Spencer
Sandra Weeks	Alderman	Ellenboro
Elsie Allen	Alderman	Ellenboro

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Emily Sharpe	Alderman	Elon	Elease Goodwin	Commissioner	Aberdeen
Annie Lewis	Alderman	Fremont	Loru Hawley	Commissioner	Angier
Joyce Reid	Alderman	Fremont	Kay Brantley	Commissioner	Askewville
Joyce Artis	Alderman	Fremont	Carla Pesce	Commissioner	Askewville
Veronica Revels	Alderman	Gibsonville	Lorie Floyd	Commissioner	Atkinson
Sheila Perkins	Alderman	Glen Alpine	Deanna Turner	Commissioner	Atkinson
Kim Cress	Alderman	Granite Quarry	Jeanette Tinkham	Commissioner	Aulander
Arin Wilhem	Alderman	Granite Quarry	Patricia Bragg	Commissioner	Aurora
Kimberly Johnson	Alderman	Harrells	Mickie Spell	Commissioner	Autryville
Jeanne Gentry	Alderman	Hot Springs	Carolyn Cashwell	Commissioner	Autryville
Jenny Fulton	Alderman	Kernersville	Jakie Faircloth	Commissioner	Autryville
Mauvine Shepherd	Alderman	Lansing	Dana Hairr	Commissioner	Autryville
Michelle Slaton	Alderman	Lansing	Mary Davenport	Commissioner	Ayden
Carolyn Wince	Alderman	Lattimore	Phyllis Ross	Commissioner	Ayden
Glenda Whitaker	Alderman	Lattimore	Patricia Duffer	Commissioner	Bath
Brenda Platt	Alderman	Madison	Vennie Himbry	Commissioner	Bayboro
Billie Haynie	Alderman	Marshall	Elizabeth Harrell	Commissioner	Bear Grass
Laura Smith	Alderman	Marshall	Regina Walters	Commissioner	Bear Grass
Etteinne Mitchelle	Alderman	New Bern	Elizabeth Smith	Commissioner	Bear Grass
Melissa Blalock	Alderman	Randleman	Marianna Hollinshed	Commissioner	Beaufort
Renee Bryant	Alderman	Randleman	Ann Carter	Commissioner	Beaufort
Nancy Henderson	Alderman	Randleman	Sharon Harker	Commissioner	Beaufort
Kandy Koonce	Alderman	Richlands	Donna Schardien	Commissioner	Belville
Janice Brooks	Alderman	Robbinsville	Emily Sisk	Commissioner	Belwood
Jacky Ayers	Alderman	Robbinsville	Maxine Holley	Commissioner	Benson
Debbie Beasley	Alderman	Robbinsville	Michelle Leonard	Commissioner	Bethania
Stephenie Walker	Alderman	Rockwell	Janet Davis	Commissioner	Bethel
Missy Hendricks	Alderman	Rosman	Diana Wright	Commissioner	Bethel
Mary Poole	Alderman	Southport	Janice Pigford	Commissioner	Beulaville
Karen Mosteller	Alderman	Southport	Doris Loomis	Commissioner	Biltmore Forest
Lora Sharkey	Alderman	Southport	Kay Kinch	Commissioner	Biscoe
Sona Cooper	Alderman	Spring Lake	Ellen Dawson	Commissioner	Black Creek
Jacqueline Jackson	Alderman	Spring Lake	Lisa Skinner	Commissioner	Black Creek
Fredricka Sutherland	Alderman	Spring Lake	Sarah Benson	Commissioner	Bladenboro
Densie Lucas	Alderman	Spring Lake	Patsi Callahan	Commissioner	Bladenboro
Sylvia Galloway	Alderman	Varnamtown	Sue Sweeting	Commissioner	Blowing Rock
Brandy Sanders	Alderman	Waco			
Judy Thompson	Alderman	Waco	Mary Stilwell	Commissioner	Boiling Spring Lakes
Julia Freeman	Alderman	Waynesville			
Jackie Bryson	Alderman	Woodfin	Bonnie Lasky	Commissioner	Boonville
Elizabeth Weeks	Alderman	Wrightsville Beach	Lynne Green	Commissioner	Broadway
			Janet Harrington	Commissioner	Broadway
Elizabeth King	Alderman	Wrightsville Beach	Everlene Davis	Commissioner	Brunswick
			Shirley Moore	Commissioner	Brunswick
Wilma Laney	Commissioner	Aberdeen	Linda Pippin	Commissioner	Bunn

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Charlene Clay	Commissioner	Bunn	Robin Testerman	Commissioner	Dobson
Sherry Mercer	Commissioner	Bunn	Vonda Comer	Commissioner	Dobson
Jan Dawson	Commissioner	Burgaw	Jackie Vick	Commissioner	Dortches
Sandy Melahn	Commissioner	Calabash	Wanda Johnson	Commissioner	East Bend
Debra Jones	Commissioner	Calypso	May Luffman	Commissioner	East Bend
Cynthia Reynolds	Commissioner	Calypso	Virginia Chavis	Commissioner	East Laurinburg
Annie Oakley	Commissioner	Cameron	Tyresa Haywood	Commissioner	East Laurinburg
Sarah Hillmer	Commissioner	Cameron	Courtenay Whitman	Commissioner	Elkin
Sandra McKinney	Commissioner	Cameron	Cicely McCulloch	Commissioner	Elkin
Sarah Hillmer	Commissioner	Cameron	Jean Fletcher	Commissioner	Ellerbe
Catherine Richardson	Commissioner	Cameron	Candace Dooley	Commissioner	Emerald Isle
Robin Martin	Commissioner	Candor	Tracey Joyner	Commissioner	Enfield
Doreen Saunders	Commissioner	Cape Carteret	Becky Williams	Commissioner	Everetts
Minnie Truax	Commissioner	Cape Carteret	Felecia McLean-Kesler	Commissioner	Fairmont
Beverly Mayhew	Commissioner	Carolina Shores	Cassandra Gaddy	Commissioner	Fairmont
Debra Morgan	Commissioner	Casar	Sharon Franklin	Commissioner	Faison
Sharon Moses	Commissioner	Casar	Melba Brewer	Commissioner	Faison
Brenda Melton	Commissioner	Casar	Brenda Elks	Commissioner	Farmville
Sylvia Mann	Commissioner	Castalia	Alma Hobbs	Commissioner	Farmville
Patsy Fisher	Commissioner	Castalia	Gloria Kesler	Commissioner	Fountain
Martha Hardy	Commissioner	Caswell Beach	Doris Edwards	Commissioner	Fountain
Kathie Lubsen	Commissioner	Caswell Beach	Kathy Parker	Commissioner	Fountain
Pamela Castellano	Commissioner	Cedar Point	Anita Fuller	Commissioner	Franklinton
Louise Furman	Commissioner	Chocowinity	Sharon Grose	Commissioner	Franklinville
Lokie Majette	Commissioner	Conway	Marilyn Gardner	Commissioner	Fuquay-Varina
Gail Wade	Commissioner	Conway	Carolyn Melvin	Commissioner	Garland
Karen Smith	Commissioner	Cooleemee	Judy Smith	Commissioner	Garland
Jessica Almond	Commissioner	Cooleemee	Iris Williams	Commissioner	Garysburg
Daphne Beck	Commissioner	Cooleemee	Deborah James	Commissioner	Gaston
Evelyn Brown	Commissioner	Cove City	Marvin Woody	Commissioner	Goldston
Barbara Jones	Commissioner	Cove City	Lynn Gaines	Commissioner	Goldston
Linda McCoy	Commissioner	Cove City	Diane Brown	Commissioner	Greenevers
Dixie Abernathy	Commissioner	Cramerton	Mary James	Commissioner	Greenevers
Susan Neeley	Commissioner	Cramerton	Mary Grace Bright	Commissioner	Grifton
Delma Mims	Commissioner	Creedmoor	Angela Early	Commissioner	Grover
Neena Nowell	Commissioner	Creedmoor	Lisa Turner	Commissioner	Halifax
Syble Spruill	Commissioner	Creswell	Barbara Daniels	Commissioner	Halifax
Ann Swain	Commissioner	Creswell	Mamie Staton	Commissioner	Hamilton
Brenda Logan	Commissioner	Creswell	Jane Williams	Commissioner	Hassell
Jane Campbell	Commissioner	Davidson	Bobbie Wiseman	Commissioner	Hassell
Autum Rierson Michael	Commissioner	Davidson	Karen Lewis	Commissioner	Havelock
Deanna Grubb	Commissioner	Denton	Brenda Wilson	Commissioner	Havelock
Barbara Hogan	Commissioner	Denton	Lillian Holman	Commissioner	Hertford
Julie Loflin	Commissioner	Denton	Amy Patterson	Commissioner	Highlands

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Evelyn Lloyd	Commissioner	Hillsborough	Patricia Uzzell	Commissioner	Lucama
Jenn Weaver	Commissioner	Hillsborough	Annette Flowers	Commissioner	Lucama
Sallie Smith	Commissioner	Hobgood	Joyce Braxton	Commissioner	MacClesfield
Althea Cobb	Commissioner	Hoffman	Joanne Reese	Commissioner	Macon
Cynthia Northcutt	Commissioner	Hoffman	Wanda Thompson	Commissioner	Macon
Cynthia Northcutt	Commissioner	Hoffman	Christine Walker	Commissioner	Manteo
Patricia Kwiatkowski	Commissioner	Holden Beach	Nancy Peele	Commissioner	Manteo
Doris Jones	Commissioner	Hookerton	Barbara Dement	Commissioner	Matthews
Catherine Carraway	Commissioner	Hookerton	Elizabeth Gilmore	Commissioner	Maxton
Megan Larson	Commissioner	Hope Mills	Margaret Gilchrist	Commissioner	Maxton
Pat Edwards	Commissioner	Hope Mills	Janet Baker	Commissioner	Maysville
Ann Smith	Commissioner	Hudson	Cara Dunn	Commissioner	Maysville
Melinda Bales	Commissioner	Huntersville	Myra Fryar	Commissioner	Maysville
Stevie Harrell	Commissioner	Jackson	Lisa Moore	Commissioner	Maysville
Karin Clements	Commissioner	Jackson	Elaine White	Commissioner	Maysville
Mary Crawley	Commissioner	Jackson	Cherrye Davis	Commissioner	Middlesex
Mary Allen	Commissioner	Jamesville	Ann Lewis	Commissioner	Middlesex
Rachel Craddock	Commissioner	Jamesville	Patricia Williams	Commissioner	Milton
Carlyn Martin	Commissioner	Jamesville	Cynthia Royster	Commissioner	Milton
Brandi Rheubottom	Commissioner	Kill Devil Hills	Cathia Stewart	Commissioner	Milton
Susan Pulley	Commissioner	Kittrell	Cathy Hurm	Commissioner	Minnesott Beach
Pamela Jack	Commissioner	Lake Park	Carolyn Casey	Commissioner	Minnesott Beach
Martha Lowe	Commissioner	Lake Waccamaw	Katrina Ross	Commissioner	Mint Hill
Robin Gibson	Commissioner	Lasker	Amy Vaughan-Jones	Commissioner	Mocksville
Joan Lassiter	Commissioner	Lasker	Kitty Fouche	Commissioner	Montreat
Sarah Queen	Commissioner	Lawndale	Alice Lentz	Commissioner	Montreat
Catherine Lovelace	Commissioner	Lawndale	Jennie Vinson	Commissioner	Montreat
Robyn Brackett	Commissioner	Lawndale	Lisa Qualls	Commissioner	Mooresville
Paula Eaker	Commissioner	Lawndale	Barbara Whittington	Commissioner	Mooresville
Doris Davis	Commissioner	Lawndale	Shirley Brinkley	Commissioner	Mount Airy
Helen Kahn	Commissioner	Leggett	Vera Richardson	Commissioner	Mount Gilead
Theresa Summerlin	Commissioner	Leggett	Paula Covington	Commissioner	Mount Gilead
Dianne Johnson	Commissioner	Lillington	Barbara Kornegay	Commissioner	Mount Olive
Barbara Denning	Commissioner	Linden	Vicky Darden	Commissioner	Mount Olive
Betsy Small	Commissioner	Linden	Chrelle Booker	Commissioner	Mufreesboro
Clara Debnam	Commissioner	Littleton	Renee Cahoon	Commissioner	Nags Head
Heidi Hogan	Commissioner	Littleton	Christy Starnes	Commissioner	New London
Sylvia Alston	Commissioner	Littleton	Teresa Wilson	Commissioner	Newton Grove
Margaret Knight	Commissioner	Littleton	Debbie Ferguson	Commissioner	North Wilkesboro
Gerleen Pritchford	Commissioner	Littleton	Angela Day	Commissioner	North Wilkesboro
Tori Barker	Commissioner	Love Valley	Betty O'Neal	Commissioner	Norwood
Gayle Weaver	Commissioner	Love Valley	Dinah Gradis	Commissioner	Oak City
Joanne Henson	Commissioner	Love Valley	Vonetta Porter	Commissioner	Oak City
Brenda Blalock	Commissioner	Lucama	Rhonda Harrell	Commissioner	Oak City

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Georgia Harvey	Commissioner	Oakboro	Terri Holt	Commissioner	Robbins
Betty Williamson	Commissioner	Ocean Isle Beach	Nicole Bradshaw	Commissioner	Robbins
Carolyn Blythe	Commissioner	Ocean Isle Beach	Sheilah Sutton	Commissioner	Rolesville
Lynn Simmons	Commissioner	Oriental	Michelle Medley	Commissioner	Rolesville
Patricia Fields	Commissioner	Oxford	Sandra Simmons	Commissioner	Ronda
Robin Hill	Commissioner	Parkton	Kay Luffman	Commissioner	Ronda
Annette McColl	Commissioner	Parkton	Joann Royal	Commissioner	Ronda
Wanda Matute	Commissioner	Parkton	Helen Porter	Commissioner	Ronda
Lula Council	Commissioner	Parmele	Marsha Whaley	Commissioner	Rose Hill
Doris Jackson	Commissioner	Parmele	Cynthia Templin	Commissioner	Roseboro
Glenda Barnes	Commissioner	Parmele	Jean Love	Commissioner	Rowland
Laura Hasty	Commissioner	Peachland	Betty Boyd	Commissioner	Rowland
Linda Needham	Commissioner	Pilot Mountain	Carolyn Bracy	Commissioner	Roxobel
Kim Quinn	Commissioner	Pilot Mountain	Shirley Cooper	Commissioner	Salemburg
Alicia Durham	Commissioner	Pine Knoll Shores	Carolyn Ashburn	Commissioner	Saluda
Karen Anderson	Commissioner	Pine Level	Tomekia Brown	Commissioner	Saratoga
Linda Wilder	Commissioner	Pinebluff	Cynthia Saunders	Commissioner	Saratoga
Rachel Byrd	Commissioner	Pinebluff	Elaine Saunders	Commissioner	Saratoga
Joyce Bennett	Commissioner	Pinebluff	Ruth Bek	Commissioner	Seaboard
Florence Pender	Commissioner	Pinetops	LaQuitia Barnes	Commissioner	Seaboard
Joyce Tolson	Commissioner	Pinetops	Cindy Neef	Commissioner	Seagrove
Suzanne Coker Craig	Commissioner	Pinetops	Sandy Walker	Commissioner	Seagrove
Barbara Taylor	Commissioner	Pinetops	Lisa Cash	Commissioner	Seven Springs
Penland Murphy	Commissioner	Pink Hill	Karla Griffin	Commissioner	Seven Springs
Debra Grady	Commissioner	Pink Hill	Ronda Hughes	Commissioner	Seven Springs
Myra Dagleish	Commissioner	Polkton	Eloise Martin	Commissioner	Severn
Sissy Stegall	Commissioner	Polkton	Paige Pinnix	Commissioner	Severn
Cynthia Heafner	Commissioner	Polkton	Cindy Bray	Commissioner	Siler City
Brenda Bridges	Commissioner	Polkville	Courtney Warren	Commissioner	Sims
Nancy Barbee	Commissioner	Pollocksville	Geraldine Shackelford	Commissioner	Snow Hill
Hattie Askew	Commissioner	Powellsville	Rosa Wilkes	Commissioner	Snow Hill
Susan Watson	Commissioner	Princeton	Nancy Walker	Commissioner	Spindale
Pamela Ransome	Commissioner	Princeville	Robin Ensley	Commissioner	Spindale
Glenda Knight	Commissioner	Princeville	Nancy Walker	Commissioner	Spring Hope
Victoria Caudle	Commissioner	Ramseur	Brenda Lucas	Commissioner	Spring Hope
Effie Locklear	Commissioner	Ranlo	Donna Patterson	Commissioner	St. Pauls
Robin Conner	Commissioner	Ranlo	Annie Stephens	Commissioner	St. Pauls
Barbara Tyre	Commissioner	Red Oak	Deborah Inman	Commissioner	St. Pauls
Shearlie McBryde	Commissioner	Red Springs	Marlene Jones	Commissioner	Staley
Caroline Sumpter	Commissioner	Red Springs	Lori Langley-Hankins	Commissioner	Staley
Elma Patterson	Commissioner	Red Springs	Faye Coble	Commissioner	Staley
Rachel Pace	Commissioner	Rhodhiss	Janet Langley Lambert	Commissioner	Staley
Mary Fisher	Commissioner	Richfield	Renee Harrelson	Commissioner	Staley
			Nadine Johnson	Commissioner	Staley

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Janet Lambert	Commissioner	Staley	Tracey Trivette	Commissioner	White Lake
Alice Clemens	Commissioner	Star	Cathy Wilson	Commissioner	Windsor
Jennifer Fountain	Commissioner	Star	Amy Williford	Commissioner	Windsor
Gay Roatch	Commissioner	Star	Peggy Taylor	Commissioner	Wingate
Susan Cope	Commissioner	Stem	Barbara Outland	Commissioner	Woodland
Pat Turner	Commissioner	Swansboro	Patricia Liverman	Commissioner	Woodland
Angela Clinton	Commissioner	Swansboro	Betty Driver	Commissioner	Yadkinville
Barbara Hamilton	Commissioner	Sylva	Catherine Redd	Commissioner	Youngsville
Mary Gelbaugh	Commissioner	Sylva	Beverly Clark	Commissioner	Zebulon
Wanda Henderson	Commissioner	Teachey	Annie Moore	Commissioner	Zebulon
Ethylen Powell	Commissioner	Teachey			

City and Town Councils

Angela Elkins	Commissioner	Troy	Linda Blackburn	Ahoskie
Margaret Rose	Commissioner	Vandemere	Jamie Burns	Ahoskie
Carolyn Jones	Commissioner	Vandemere	Martha Hughes	Albemarle
Rora Kellis	Commissioner	Vass	Sarah Burns	Ansonville
Bernice Gorham	Commissioner	Wagram	Phyllis Watkins	Ansonville
Anne Reeve	Commissioner	Wake Forest	Audra Killingsworth	Apex
Elizabeth Simperts	Commissioner	Wake Forest	Teresa Bruton	Archer Lodge
Bridget Wall-Lennon	Commissioner	Wake Forest	Linda Carter	Asheboro
Sharon Conaway	Commissioner	Walnut Cove	Katie Snuggs	Asheboro
Montraila King-Beasley	Commissioner	Walstonburg	Jane Redding	Asheboro
Sherry Morris	Commissioner	Walstonburg	Julie Mayfield	Asheville
Bonnie Riddle	Commissioner	Walstonburg	Sue Ledford	Bakersville
Margaret Britt	Commissioner	Warrenton	Elizabeth Stephen	Bald Head Island
Mary Hunter	Commissioner	Warrenton	Renee Castiglione	Beech Mountain
Kimberly Harding	Commissioner	Warrenton	Mary Cox	Belhaven
Valerie Nelson	Commissioner	Warsaw	Kay McCathen	Bessemer City
Peggy Duran	Commissioner	Warsaw	Virginia Powell	Blowing Rock
Belinda Cowell	Commissioner	Washington Park	Minnie Turbeville	Boardman
Tracy Wesolek	Commissioner	Waxhaw	Kelly Britt	Boardman
Brenda Burns	Commissioner	Waxhaw	Loretta Clawson	Boone
Kat Lee	Commissioner	Waxhaw	Lynne Mason	Boone
Billie Bryson	Commissioner	Webster	Marshall Ashcraft	Boone
Leigh Young	Commissioner	Webster	Constance Ulmer	Boone
Susie Adams	Commissioner	Weldon	Jeannine Underdown	
Charlotte Moss	Commissioner	Weldon	Collins	Boone
Kimberley Robinson	Commissioner	Weldon	Charlotte Mizelle	Boone
John Boyette	Commissioner	Wendell	Jennifer Teague	Boone
Cecelia Herman	Commissioner	Whispering Pines	Maureen Copelof	Brevard
Doris Howington	Commissioner	Whitakers	Ann Hollingsworth	Brevard
May McCloud	Commissioner	Whitakers	Kathy Hykes	Burlington
Doris Lindsey	Commissioner	Whitakers	Judy Buchanan	Burnsville
Fran Lynch	Commissioner	Whitakers	Ruth Banks	Burnsville
Janice Bellamy	Commissioner	Whitakers	Shannon Peterson	Burnsville

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Helen Mcintosh	Burnsville	DeDreana Freeman	Durham
Linda Jordon	Butner	Javiera Caballero	Durham
Vickie Smoak	Butner	Elizabeth Lavender	Earl
Cheryl Pritchard	Cajah's Mountain	Ann Thackerson	Earl
LeAnn Pierce	Carolina Beach	Patti Norman	Earl
JoDan Garza	Carolina Beach	Lillian Graham	East Arcadia
Jennifer Robinson	Cary	Rhonda Hall	East Arcadia
Lori Bush	Cary	Carlee Carter	East Arcadia
Colleen Anderson	Catawba	Pamela Graham	East Arcadia
Pamela Mayberry	Cedar Rock	Angela Hampton	Eden
Sharon Schmidt	Cedar Rock	Jean Baker	Elizabeth City
Lisa McKee	Cerro Gordo	Gloria Young	Elizabeth City
Colene Kelly	Chadbourne	Anita Hummer	Elizabeth City
Jessica Anderson	Chapel Hill	Paula Greene	Elizabethtown
Nancy Oates	Chapel Hill	Elsie Freeman	Ellerbe
Karen Stegman	Chapel Hill	Patricia Kindley	Fairview
Sally Greene	Chapel Hill	Katherine Jensen	Fayetteville
Maria Palmer	Chapel Hill	Tisha Waddell	Fayetteville
Hongbin Gu	Chapel Hill	Paige Posey	Flat Rock
Dimple Ajmera	Charlotte	Virginia Brown	Flat Rock
LaWana Mayfield	Charlotte	Anne Coletta	Flat Rock
Clara Slack-Mayfield	Charlotte	Sheryl Jamerson	Flat Rock
Jill Puett	Cherryville	Shelia Franklin	Fletcher
April Sottile	Chimney Rock Village	Tracy Williams	Fontana Dam
Pamela Lofland	Clemmons	Sara Locke	Fontana Dam
Jean Turlington	Clinton	Sharon Stovall	Forest Hills
Charlene Harrell	Cofield	Debbie Rowland	Forest Hills
Dacia Sutton	Cofield	Dinah Mashburn	Franklin
Dacia Morales	Cofield	Barbara Pennell	Gamewell
Hermea Pugh	Cofield	Kathy Behringer	Garner
Margaret Metcalf	Columbus	Jennifer Stepp	Gastonia
Ann Spruill	Como	Lula Cottingham	Gibson
Lorie Higbee	Como	Melody Wiggins	Graham
Susan Kennington	Como	Patricia Paul	Grantsboro
Ella Small	Concord	Kristie Mitchell	Grantsboro
Jennifer Parsley	Concord	Goldie Wells	Greensboro
Joie Fulbright	Conover	Nancy Hoffmann	Greensboro
Wendi Spraker	Danbury	Sharon Hightower	Greensboro
Angeline David	Dobbins Heights	Tracey Kennedy	Greensboro
Mary Gibson	Dobbins Heights	Tammi Thurm	Greensboro
Barbara Young	Dobbins Heights	Marikay Abuzuaiter	Greensboro
Nancy Caviness	Duck	Kandie Smith	Greenville
Gwendolyn McNeill	Dunn	Deborah Baker	Harrellsville
Vernetta Alston	Durham	Lisa Hunnicutt	Harrellsville

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

EMMA PERRY	Harrellsville	Betty Wright	Louisburg
Benita Conrad	Harrisburg	Karen Higley	Lumberton
Kelly Allen	Haw River	Trina Michael	Maiden
Sara Coffey	Henderson	Juanita Doggett	Marion
Melissa Elliott	Henderson	Ann Harkey	Marion
Jill Patton	Hickory	Margaret Bivens	Marshville
Monica Peters	High Point	Norma Carpenter	Marshville
Lisa Stamey	High Shoals	Ernestine Staton	Marshville
Kathy Rhyne	High Shoals	Kimberly Vandenberg	Marvin
Phyllis Friday	High Shoals	Dannie Bacot	McDonald
Susie Tubbs	High Shoals	Kim Gainey	McFarlan
Jody York	Hildebran	Debbie Bryant	McFarlan
Theresa Messer	Hildebran	Jill Auditori	Mebane
Carolyn Stanley	Holly Ridge	Patty Philipps	Mebane
Pamala Hall	Holly Ridge	Lois Credle	Mesic
Kelly Collins	Holly Ridge	Violet Ollison	Mesic
Cheri Lee	Holly Springs	Ruth Nance	Middleburg
Christine Kelly	Holly Springs	Mamie Turner	Middleburg
Shirley Howe	Indian Trail	Ann Fudge	Middleburg
Angelia Washington	Jacksonville	Robin Moon	Midway
Rebecca Rayborn	Jamestown	Jacqueline Edwards	Midway
Martha Wolfe	Jamestown	Janet Critz	Mineral Springs
Tracy Wall	Jonesville	Lundeen Cureton	Mineral Springs
Anita Darnell	Jonesville	Bettylyn Krafft	Mineral Springs
Janna Rogerson	Kenly	Valerie Coffey	Mineral Springs
Trinity Henderson	Kenly	Martha Lucas	Momeyer
Debra Johnson	Kingstown	Surluta Anthony	Monroe
Janet Gerald	Kingstown	Diane Warrender	Morehead City
Kristal Suggs	Kinston	Keri Mccann	Morehead City
Lynne McClean	Kitty Hawk	Wendy Cato	Morganton
Jessica Day	Knightdale	Satish Garimella	Morrisville
Veronica Lee	La Grange	Elizabeth Johnson	Morrisville
Kristen Bowman	Lake Park	Carolyn Solomon	Morven
Nancy Mckinley	Laurel Park	Marjorie Cole	Morven
Dolores Hammond	Laurinburg	Lauren Shoemaker	Mount Holly
Mary Jo Adams	Laurinburg	Carolyn Breyare	Mount Holly
Mary Evans	Laurinburg	Berna Stephens	Murfreesboro
Crissy Thomas	Lenoir	Karen Watson	Murphy
Diannne Bazemore	Lewiston Woodville	Barbara Hughes	Murphy
June Jernigan	Lewiston Woodville	Gail Stansell	Murphy
Michelle Gilliam	Lewiston Woodville	Louise Hinton	Nashville
Marci Gallman	Lewisville	Kate Burns	Nashville
Tonya Lanier	Lexington	Roxanna Roberson	Newland
Bernice Bennett	Lilesville	Donetta McKinney	Newland
Emma Stewart	Louisburg		

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

JOLETA WISE	Newland	Azalie Graham	Sandyfield
Lauren Turbyfill	Newland	Rebecca Johnson	Sawmills
Anne Wepner	Newton	Pam Allen	Seagrove
Jody Dixon	Newton	Ophelia Jones	Sedalia
Sheila Grady	Northwest	Shinita Wrenwick	Sedalia
Shelia Bell	Oak Island	Ann Williams	Selma
Ann Schneider	Oak Ridge	Christina Bailey	Seven Devils
Gail Horne	Peachland	Violet Dukes	Shelby
Theresa Locklear	Pembroke	Dianne Thomas	Simpson
Judith Davis	Pinehurst	Mary Moye	Simpson
Claire Berggren	Pinehurst	Teresa VanCamp	Southern Pines
Deborah Fowler	Pineville	Carol Haney	Southern Pines
Melissa Davis	Pineville	Milly Richardson	Sparta
Mary Byers	Plymouth	Darla Harding	Spruce Pine
Vershumn Hawkins	Plymouth	Jacqueline Rensink	Spruce Pine
Jennifer Connor	Proctorville	Nancy Jones	St. Helena
Debra Conner	Proctorville	Margaret Brinzey	St. Helena
Mary King	Rae ford	Kaye Knowles	St. Helena
Stefanie Mendell	Raleigh	Judith Katalinic	St. Helena
Nicole Stewart	Raleigh	Shawna Steele	Stallings
Kay Crowder	Raleigh	Kathy Heyse	Stallings
Kathleen Lindsay	Raynham	Linda Paxton	Stallings
Martha Watts	Raynham	Deborah Romanow	Stallings
Barbara Carpenter	Red Cross	Kerry Hart	Stanley
Sherri Walker	Reidsville	Cathy Kirkland	Stanley
Terresia Scoble	Reidsville	Jackie Grice	Stantonsburg
Shirley Tolson	Rennert	Doris Allison	Statesville
Brenda Locklear	Rennert	Vicki White-Lawrence	Stokesdale
Velenda Morgan	Rennert	Lori Armstrong	Stoneville
Vivian McRae	Rennert	Teresa Pegram	Summerfield
Luci Avery	River Bend	Janice Harris	Sunset Beach
Carol Cowen	Roanoke Rapids	Nelva Albury	Surf City
Suetta Scarbrough	Roanoke Rapids	Teresa Batts	Surf City
Ivana Ward	Robersonville	Angeline Hall	Tar Heel
Anne Edwards	Rockingham	Deborah Jordan	Tarboro
Denise Sullivan	Rockingham	Sabrina Bynum	Tarboro
Christine Miller	Rocky Mount	Jane Murphy	Thomasville
Lois Watkins	Rocky Mount	Wendy Sellars	Thomasville
Raemona Jackson	Roper	Lori Shore-Smith	Tobaccoville
Christy Bare	Rutherfordton	Sally Williams	Troutman
Tamara Sheffield	Salisbury	Judy Jablonski	Troutman
Karen Alexander	Salisbury	Frances Hildebran	Valdese
Martina Colby	Sandy Creek	Sarah Welch	Walkertown
Anna Knapp	Sandy Creek	Peggy Leight	Walkertown

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Elizabeth Skeenes	Wallace	Vi Lyles	Charlotte
Wannetta Carlton	Wallace	Jody McLeod	Clayton
Cindy Johnson	Wallburg	June Wynn	Cofield
Cyndi Dupuy	Walnut Creek	Linda Ingram	Conetoe
Dorothea Sherrill	Weaverville	Janet Whitt	Danbury
Janice Propst	Weddington	Barbara Mallett	East Spencer
Amanda Fuller	Wesley Chapel	Bettie Parker	Elizabeth City
Denise Racey	Whispering Pines	Sylvia Campbell	Elizabethtown
Constance Reed	Whispering Pines	Patsy Carson	Erwin
Abbe Allen	Whispering Pines	Carolyn Kenyon	Faison
Vickie Pait	Whiteville	Doris Weaver	Fallston
Sara Thompson	Whiteville	Kolleen Begley	Forest Hills
Cynthia Wheeler	Whitsett	Shirley Mitchell	Fountain
Ellen Archibald	Wilkesboro	Winifred Murphy	Garland
Denise Adams	Winston-Salem	Alice Delbridge	Gaston
Veronica Roberson	Winterville	Remonia Enoch	Green Level
Tiffany Lewis	Winton	Nancy Vaughan	Greensboro
Emily Winstead	Winton	Eleanor Farr	Grimesland
Odessa Gwynn	Yanceyville	Mary Thompson	Harrellsville
Margie Badgett-Lampkin	Yanceyville	Tarnisha Davis	Hassell
		Barbara Volk	Hendersonville
		Anita Dingler	Holly Ridge
		Jackie Warner	Hope Mills
		Janet Winkler	Hudson
		Lynn Montgomery	Jamestown
		Bonnie Williamson	Kenly
		Dawn Morgan	Kernersville
		Sheila Davies	Kill Devil Hills
		Clarissa Jennings-Reid	Kingstown
		Brenda Bozeman	Leland
		Marie Butler	Linden
		Marla Thompson	Long View
		Sandy Railey	Lowell
		Saralyn Price	Maggie Valley
		Gwendolyn Vann	Magnolia
		Diane Timmons	McFarlan
		Kathy Kitts	Midland
		Valerie Jaynes	Newland
		Anne Stedman	Newton
		Cin Brochure	Oak Island
		Debbie Smith	Ocean Isle Beach
		Sally Belangia	Oriental
		Jackie Sergent	Oxford
		Earlene McLamb	Pinebluff
Mayors			
Bertha Lance-Stone	Archdale		
Esther Manheimer	Asheville		
Gloria Bryant	Askewville		
Anne Harwood	Badin		
Brenda Lyerly	Banner Elk		
Charlotte Griffin	Bear Grass		
Debbie Hoyle	Belwood		
Becky Smith	Bessemer City		
Deborah Stoltz-Thompson	Bethania		
Gloristine Brown	Bethel		
Ella Marston	Bolivia		
Nancy Hill	Brunswick		
Marsha Strawbridge	Bunn		
Theresa Coletta	Burnsville		
Mary Knight	Calabash		
Rubylene Lambert	Calypso		
Cristina Moore	Cameron		
Joyce Dunn	Carolina Shores		
Lydia Lavelle	Carrboro		
Ellene Leonard	Castalia		
Deborah Ahlers	Caswell Beach		
Pam Hemminger	Chapel Hill		

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS

Nancy Fiorillo	Pinehurst	Cassandra Stack	Benson
Carol Sykes	Pink Hill	Fran Cogburn	Biltmore Forest
Cindy Perry	Pittsboro	Elizabeth Parker	Bridgeton
Carla Strickland	Pleasant Garden	Jackie Rowland	Brunswick
Minnie Staton	Polkton	Christene Emory	Butner
Nancy McFarlane	Raleigh	Della Lewis	Calypso
Debra Arnette	Raynham	Eloise Bulloch	Cerro Gordo
Elizabeth Locklear	Rennert	Donna Bell	Chapel Hill
Doris Risper	Rich Square	Julie Eiselt	Charlotte
Denise Blount	Roper	April Sottile	Chimney Rock Village
Alice Butler	Roseboro	Michelle Barson	Clemmons
Dorothy Shooter	Rowland	Monica Thibodeau	Duck
Merilyn Newell	Roxboro	Jillian Johnson	Durham
Geraldine Langford	Seaboard	Laladge Moss	Earl
Cheryl Oliver	Selma	Cheryl Hudson	Eastover
Jean Toner	St. James	Elizabeth Blanton	Ellenboro
Karen Scotton	Staley	Sarah Houston	Fontana Dam
Mary O'Brien	Star	Dee Dee Bright	Forest City
Constantine Kutteh	Statesville	Leslie Frusco	Foxfire Village
Janet Parrott	Stovall	Lola Ausby	Garysburg
Gail Dunham	Summerfield	Julia Lee	Grantsboro
Lynda Sossamon	Sylva	Carissa Graves-Henry	Green Level
Lois McCartney	Teachey	Yvonne Johnson	Greensboro
Darlene Spivey	Trenton	Rose Glover	Greenville
Judy Thaanum	Vandemere	Katie Greer	Harrells
Judy Galloway	Varnamtown	Jody York	Hildebran
Vivian Jones	Wake Forest	Rena Bragg	Holly Ridge
Susan Casper	Walstonburg	Georgia Nixon	Jamestown
Elizabeth Callis	Weddington	Dianne Berry	Kannapolis
Julia Meacham	Weldon	Dianne Berry	Kannapolis
Virginia Gray	Wendell	Felicia Solomon	Kinston
Michelle Lexo	Whispering Pines	Sandra Mock	Lewisville
Joyce Whichard-Brown	Williamston	Juanita Williams	Lilesville
		Judy Breeden	Lillington
		Candy Funderburk	Lowell
		Janet Banks	Maggie Valley
		Ruth Quinn	Magnolia
		Aileen Payne	Marshall
		Virginia Morgan	Marshville
		Carrie Bailey	McAdenville
		Peggy Neill	Mineral Springs
		Debra Duncan	Monroe
		Vicki Scroggins-Johnson	Morrisville
		Lori Furr	Mount Pleasant
Mayors Pro Tem			
Naydine Sharpe	Alamance		
Martha Sue Hall	Albemarle		
Denise Cannon	Ansonville		
Nicole Dozier	Apex		
Bobbie Parker	Aulander		
Deloris Chambers	Badin		
Shelley Carroll	Bailey		
Kit Adcock	Bald Head Island		
Martha Stowe	Belmont		
Noreen Slattery	Belville		

Sarah Wallace	Murfreesboro
Susie Walters	Nags Head
Minnie Brown	Navassa
Joann McDermon	North Topsail Beach
Linda Campbell	Norwood
Doris Underwood	Parkton
Pamela Baldwin	Pittsboro
Linda Joyner	Princeville
Nikki Green	Robbins
Rebecca Salmon	Sanford
Barbara Luther	Seagrove
Valerie Jones	Sedalia
Jacqueline Lacy	Selma
Becky Humphrey	Sharpsburg
Brenda Hawkins	Simpson
Rhonda Payne	Sims
Lorraine Washington	Snow Hill
Sylvia Chillcott	Spencer
Dena Barnes	Summerfield
Carol Scott	Sunset Beach
Linda Stipe	Topsail Beach
Susan Stevenson	Valdese
Ann Long	Wade
Brenda Haymond	Walstonburg
Virginia Finnerty	Washington
Brenda McMillon	Waxhaw
Margaret Haynes	Wilmington
Debbie Whedbee	Winfall
Vivian Burke	Winston-Salem
Debbie Giezentanner	Woodfin
Monta Davis-Oliver	Yadkinville

Vice Mayors

Gwen Wisler	Asheville
Barbara McRae	Franklin
Karen Anderson	Lake Santeetlah

*Note: Until state law changed, trial court judges were elected on a non-partisan basis.