

Boardroom or Boy's Room?
Gender Composition on North Carolina's
Power Boards



A Report by the Women's Forum of North Carolina

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Presented By:

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Executive Summary

This report studies the gender composition of fourteen public “power boards” in North Carolina. The Governor and General Assembly appoint members to these boards. The Women’s Forum of North Carolina chose to study these boards due to their prestige, size of their budgets, salary paid to members and influence in the state. The first Women’s Forum study of the gender composition of power boards in North Carolina took place in 1999.¹ This report reexamines the ten boards studied in 1999 and studies four additional boards for the first time.

Two broad trends emerge from the gender composition data of North Carolina’s power boards. First, women’s representation has increased by nearly 5% overall, with 7 of the 10 original boards maintaining or increasing their percentage of female membership since 1999. Only the Social Services Commission, Economic Development Board and Environmental Management Commission have a smaller percentage of women serving now than in 1999. The second trend, however, is troubling for those concerned about women’s representation on these boards and commissions. During North Carolina’s last fiscal year, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, fifty-one appointments were made, but only seven of those appointees—just under 14%—were women. Unless significantly more women are appointed in the coming months, women’s representation could decrease below its 1999 levels.

In North Carolina, where women make up 51% of the population and the majority of the work force and college graduates², it is noteworthy that women are disproportionately represented on these powerful state government boards and commissions.

A recent study conducted by the Center of Women in Government & Civil Society at the University at Albany, found that North Carolina ranked 37th out of 50 states in having women serve in appointed positions.³

These state appointed boards and commissions are charged with setting policy that has broad effects on the lives and well being of women and families across the state. Research has shown that women bring strong ethics and vital organizational and problem-solving skills to board discussions, as well as one-half on the talent pool.

In its recent history, North Carolina’s state government “power boards” have not fully reflected the achievements of its women, or their representation in the population and work force of the state. The Women’s Forum of North Carolina will continue to analyze and publish its findings about the patterns of appointments to these positions.

¹ A copy of the original report can be acquired by contacting the Women’s Forum of NC via email at info@womensforumnc.org.

² The 2009 Southern Regional Education Board Fact Book on Higher Education.

³ *Appointed Policy Makers in State Government, Glass Ceilings in Gubernatorial Appointments, 1997-2007*, Center of Women in Government & Civil Society, University at Albany, State University of New York, Summer 2008.

North Carolina Power Boards

Banking Commission, Board of Education, Board of Transportation, Economic Development Board, Employment Security Commission,* Environmental Management Commission, Golden Leaf Foundation Board of Directors,* Governor’s Crime Commission, Health and Wellness Trust,* Lottery Commission,* State Board of Community Colleges, Social Services Commission, UNC Board of Governors, Utilities Commission. ⁴ Boards marked with an asterisk were not studied in 1999.

Banking Commission

The Banking Commission supervises, directs and reviews the Commissioner of Banks. The Commissioner of Banks regulates banks, savings banks and savings & loan associations to ensure safe conduct of banking business maintain the public’s confidence in the financial institutions and to protect the institutions’ depositors, debtors, creditors and shareholders. Banking Commission members do not receive a salary, but do receive a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
22	4	2	20%	6%	14%	0% (0/8)

Board of Education

The State Board of Education supervises and administers the free public school system and the educational funds provided for its support. The State government provided \$8.19 billion for the public school system in 2008-2009; the Federal government provided an additional \$809 million.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
14	6	0	43%	31%	12%	25% (1/4)

⁴ Data collected through the NC Secretary of State Website, 2007, 2008 Appointment Reporting.
<http://www.secretary.state.nc.us>.

Board of Transportation

The Board of Transportation approves and awards highway projects, allocates all highway construction and maintenance funds, advises the Secretary of Transportation, formulates policies and procedures for all modes of transportation and promulgates rules. The Department of Transportation has a yearly budget of approximately \$4 billion.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
19	3	3	19%	19%	0	n/a (0/0)

Economic Development Board

The Economic Development Board advises the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and the Governor on economic policy, industrial recruitment and expansion, trade policy and travel and tourism. The statute mandates that appointments to the Board “should reflect the ethnic and gender diversity of the state as nearly as practical.” Members of the Board do not receive a salary, but do receive a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
37	6	0	16%	19%	-3%	n/a (0/0)

Employment Security Commission*

The mission of the Employment Security Commission is to promote and sustain the economic well being of North Carolinians by providing high quality and accessible workforce-related services. The Commission provides employment services, unemployment insurance, and labor market information to the state’s workers, employers, and the public. The Commission rules on appeal unemployment insurance claims and tax matter serving as the highest administrative voice. Its rulings are appealed to the N.C. Superior Court. The chairperson of the Employment Security Commission is paid a salary; other members are paid a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
7	1	0	14%	n/a	n/a	0% (0/4)

Environmental Management Commission

The Environmental Management Commission is responsible for adopting rules for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the state's air and water resources. The Commission oversees and adopts rules for several divisions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including the Divisions of Air Quality, Land Resources, Water Quality, and Water Resources. Members of the board do not receive a salary, but do receive a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
19	1	0	5%	12%	-7%	0% (0/1)

Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors*

The Golden LEAF Foundation, established in 1999, oversees the disbursement of half of North Carolina’s share of a settlement with cigarette manufacturers. Golden LEAF promotes the social welfare and lessens the burdens of government by using its funds to provide economic impact assistance to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions of North Carolina. By 2025, it is expected that Golden LEAF will have received approximately \$2.3 billion in payments as a result of the tobacco settlement. Annual payments vary and depend upon several factors, one being the number of cigarettes sold in the United States. In 2008, Golden LEAF gave 102 grants totaling \$129,126,336.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
15	1	0	7%	n/a	n/a	0% (0/6)

Governor’s Crime Commission

The Governor’s Crime Commission sets program priorities, reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Governor for the state's criminal justice and juvenile justice federal block grants. The Commission made 314 grants worth \$62 million in 2009.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
44	13	4	33%	15%	18%	33% (4/12)

Health and Wellness Trust Fund*

The Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) was created by the General Assembly as one of three entities to invest North Carolina's portion of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. HWTF receives one-fourth of the state's tobacco settlement funds, which are paid in annual installments over a 25-year period. The Fund's money may be used to (1) address the health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations in NC; (2) fund programs and initiatives that include research, education, prevention and treatment of health problems in NC and to increase the capacity of communities to respond to the public's health needs and; (3) develop a comprehensive, community-based plan with goals and objectives to improve the health and wellness of the people in NC with a priority on preventing, reducing, and remedying the health effects of tobacco use. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Fund oversaw disbursements totaling \$32,380,300. \$187,623,597 has been disbursed since 2000. The General Assembly intended that members appointed to the HWTF should represent the geographic, political, gender and racial diversity of the state.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
18	8	0	44%	n/a	n/a	0% (0/2)

Lottery Commission*

The North Carolina Lottery Commission initiated, supervises, and administers the North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL). The NCEL finished the 2008 fiscal year with sales of \$1.078 billion and transfers to education of more than \$350 million. Transfers to education from the date of launch of the NCEL to the end of the 2008 fiscal year were over \$725 million. Commissioners receive no salary, but receive a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses. The General Assembly intended that members appointed to the Lottery Commission should represent the geographic, political, gender and racial diversity of the state.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
9	4	0	44%	n/a	n/a	0% (0/4)

State Board of Community Colleges

The State Board of Community Colleges adopts and carries out the policies, regulations and standards necessary for administering and operating North Carolina’s community colleges. North Carolina’s community college system is the third-largest in the nation with 160 physical facilities made up of 58 main campuses, 28 multi-campuses and 74 off-campus sites.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
21	7	0	33%	30%	3%	n/a (0/0)

Social Services Commission

The Social Services Commission establishes “rules for public assistance excluding medical assistance; placement and supervision of delinquent children and payment of necessary costs of foster home care for needy and homeless children; payment of state funds to private child-placing agencies and residential child care facilities for care and services provided to children in the custody or placement responsibility of a county department of social services; social services programs established by federal legislation; implementation of portions of Title XX of the Social Security Act; inspection and licensing of maternity homes; inspection and operation of jails and local confinement facilities; and rules required by the federal government for social services grants-in-aid.” Members receive no salary, but receive a per diem for subsistence and travel expenses.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
13	3	1	25%	42%	-17%	17% (1/6)

UNC Board of Governors

The UNC Board of Governors is the policy-making body legally charged with "the general determination, control, supervision, management, and governance of all affairs of the constituent institutions."

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
36	9	0	25%	16%	9%	33% (1/3)

Utilities Commission

The Utilities Commission supervises and controls the public utilities of the state as may be necessary and takes action necessary to secure reasonable adequate service for the public's need and convenience. Commissioners are salaried, but are prohibited by law from engaging in any other employment, business or profession while in office. The Utilities Commission's 2009 budget was approximately \$7.3 million dollars. The industries the Commission oversees had revenues totaling \$11.4 billion in 2008.

2009 Total Members	2009 Female Members	Current Vacancies	2009 Percentage of Female Members	1999 Percentage of Female Members	Percentage Change	Percentage of Females Appointed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year
7	3	0	43%	29%	14%	0% (0/1)

The Women's Forum of North Carolina, Inc. is an invitational, non-partisan organization of diverse women leaders of proven influence. Its members are dedicated to working together to achieve equality and maintain social, economic and political power for women.

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* The Women's Forum of NC would like to extend our special thanks to Emily D. Johnson for her dedicated work compiling the data and writing up the findings.



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