

PUBLIC POLICY BRANCH ACTION PROJECT

Promoting Gender Equity on Appointed Boards and Commissions

The American Association of University Women Jacksonville Regional Branch in cooperation with the Onslow County Council for Women conducted a study of the appointments made for 2000-2001 to statutorily created decision-making boards, commissions, councils or committees by county government and municipal entities in Onslow County, North Carolina.

Project Purpose:

- To determine gender-proportionate appointments to statutorily created decision making bodies in Onslow County.
- To encourage local entities to report appointments to the Secretary of State's Office for transmittal to the Governor and General Assembly and for public evaluation.
- To promote appointing authorities to appoint more women to reflect the proportion that is in the population of the area represented by the board, commissions, councils or committees.
- To raise the consciousness of women across Onslow County to the opportunities and how to seek appointment.

Process:

- Contact the county and municipalities in writing to request copies of their last N.C.G.S. §143-157.1 Appointment Reporting Form.
- If the report has not been made, inform the entity of the reporting requirements and request the information as a matter of public information.
- Make courtesy calls to the entities not reporting in a reasonable time.
- Compile the results in table form for comparison.
- Obtain information on-line from the U.S. Census Bureau on the percentiles of women in the population of the county government and municipalities.
- Distribute the study results to the entities, local and state organizations and the newspaper by preparing an op-ed article.
- Seek opportunities to speak on gender equity appointments at local or state organizations, particularly women's groups.

Reasons for YOUR branch to become involved:

There is strength in numbers when working to get more women on boards and commissions. Many of the public policy decisions made by local and state boards, commissions and committees have significant impact on the lives of women: such as your money, your health care, your environment, your job opportunities, your family and your options.

Women's groups need to form coalitions with other local and state organizations to: 1) encourage more women to apply, 2) promote appointing authorities to become more knowledgeable of the statute and 3) seek the appointment by authorities of more women to boards, commissions, councils or committees. Further evaluation should be made of each board's total membership by gender in addition to the yearly total appointments made.

Gender-proportionate Demographics

To obtain information from the U.S. Census Bureau on-line:

1. Go to this [url:http://www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)<<http://www.census.gov>>
2. In the left navigation bar, select A under Subject A-Z
3. Choose American FactFinder
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Under decennial Census, select Demographic Profiles
5. From the three tabs at the top right of the page (blue-grey with submenus), pick Change Selection, Geography
6. In "Select a geographic type", choose County or Place (for municipal information)
7. Select State
8. Next, select one or more geographic areas and click "Add". To select multiple concurrent counties, hold down shift. To select nonconcurring counties, hold down the control key.
9. In the bottom box, remove United States by highlighting it and clicking REMOVE.
10. Select town(s)
11. Click "Show Table" and your table(s) will now display

You can also skip steps one to three and go to
<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>

Presentation by Lynda Delaney of the Onslow County Council for Women, military spouse and resident of Jacksonville and Hubert resident Nelda Howell of the council and the American Association of University Women Jacksonville Regional Branch. Howell is active on several boards. Special recognition is extended for the technical assistance of Delaney's sister Jackie Klock. Contact Delaney at 910.353.1865 or Howell at 910.326.6734 or NHOWELL@ec.rr.com. 3/8/02