



EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

CENTER FOR AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS

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New Jersey counties are not making the grade.

Center for American Women and Politics releases report card
on number of elected women officials.

TRENTON, N.J. – The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is joined today by State political leaders to release a report card highlighting the dismal number of elected women officials in each of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

Using the standard elementary school grading system of Excellent, Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory, New Jersey gets “unsatisfactory” for electing women as mayors and freeholders. The percentage of women mayors throughout New Jersey is 13.4% (76 out of 566) and women hold only 23.4% of all freeholder positions or 32 out of 137.

“Women should not be discouraged by these numbers,” said Hazel Frank Gluck, a GOP strategist and former elected and appointed official from Ocean County. “Rather, they should be outraged and encouraged to take the plunge into public office,” continued Gluck.

Debbie Walsh, director of CAWP, noted that the grades also reflect an inherent problem with the partisan structure. “The county party chairs need to better assess what obstacles stand between women and public office.” said Walsh. “Women must be ready to run—and county leaders must be ready to support them in winnable races.”

Republican State Chair Senator Joseph Kyrillos joined Gluck and former Mercer County Democratic Chair Senator Shirley Turner in discussing the grades and why women should seek public office. “Women definitely make a difference in shaping public policy and should make every effort to be at the table,” stated Senator Turner.

The report card provides comments with each grade of “E,” “S” and “U” and overall the comments reflect the generally poor record of New Jersey’s counties in electing women. Ocean County, with no women freeholders and only 9.1% women mayors, earned a “U” and was chided for “not focusing on the problem of too few women in elected office.” Mercer County was given an “S” in the same categories with the notation “Shows real progress toward fair representation at both levels of office.”

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Walsh pointed out that there are some resources for women interested in seeking public office, such as CAWP's "Ready to Run" conference. "Ready to Run" is an all-day conference for women, with workshops focusing on fund raising, how to craft a campaign message, working with the party political leaders, and how to get out the vote. This year's conference is Saturday, September 28 at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Women interested in attending should contact Amy Bain at CAWP (732-932-9384 ext 260).

"I've been in politics a long time and I've always looked to pull women with me as I've climbed," said Gluck. "These grades demonstrate that women either think there's no room for them in politics or are having a tough time breaking into the political arena. It's obviously time to get better teachers, and capable students and break the cycle" concluded Gluck.

CAWP is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater understanding and knowledge about women's changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. A unit of Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.

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Women Mayors in New Jersey 2002

County	Total	Women	% Women
Atlantic	23	1	4.3%
Bergen	70	10	14.3%
Burlington	40	3	7.5%
Camden	37	7	18.9%
Cape May	16	1	6.3%
Cumberland	14	1	7.1%
Essex	22	2	9.1%
Gloucester	24	4	16.7%
Hudson	12	0	0.0%
Hunterdon	26	7	26.9%
Mercer	13	4	30.8%
Middlesex	25	4	16.0%
Monmouth	53	6	11.3%
Morris	39	6	15.4%
Ocean	33	3	9.1%
Passaic	16	0	0.0%
Salem	15	2	13.3%
Somerset	21	6	28.6%
Sussex	24	2	8.3%
Union	21	2	9.5%
Warren	22	5	22.7%
Total	566	76	13.4%



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Women Freeholders in New Jersey 2002

County	Total	Women*	% Women
Atlantic	9	0	0.0%
Bergen	7	1	14.3%
Burlington	5	2	40.0%
Camden	7	4	57.1%
Cape May	5	0	0.0%
Cumberland	7	2	28.6%
Essex	9	3	33.3%
Gloucester	7	1	14.3%
Hudson	9	1	11.1%
Hunterdon	5	1	20.0%
Mercer	7	3	42.9%
Middlesex	7	2	28.6%
Monmouth	5	1	20.0%
Morris	7	2	28.6%
Ocean	5	0	0.0%
Passaic	7	3	42.9%
Salem	7	1	14.3%
Somerset	5	1	20.0%
Sussex	5	2	40.0%
Union	9	2	22.2%
Warren	3	0	0.0%
Total	137	32	23.4%

* Only 4.4% women of color



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Women in All County Offices 2002

County	Freeholders	Women Freeholders	Constitutional Officers	Women Con. Officers	County Execs*	Women County Execs	Total County	Total Women	% Women
Atlantic	9	0	3	1	1	0	13	1	7.7%
Bergen	7	1	3	1	1	0	11	2	18.2%
Burlington	5	2	3	1	-	-	8	3	37.5%
Camden	7	4	3	1	-	-	10	5	50.0%
Cape May	5	0	3	1	-	-	8	1	12.5%
Cumberland	7	2	3	1	-	-	10	3	30.0%
Essex	9	3	4	1	1	0	14	4	28.6%
Gloucester	7	1	3	0	-	-	10	1	10.0%
Hudson	9	1	4	2	1	0	14	3	21.4%
Hunterdon	5	1	3	2	-	-	8	3	37.5%
Mercer	7	3	3	2	1	0	11	5	45.5%
Middlesex	7	2	3	1	-	-	10	3	30.0%
Monmouth	5	1	3	2	-	-	8	3	37.5%
Morris	7	2	3	1	-	-	10	3	30.0%
Ocean	5	0	3	0	-	-	8	0	0.0%
Passaic	7	3	4	1	-	-	11	4	36.4%
Salem	7	1	3	2	-	-	10	3	30.0%
Somerset	5	1	3	0	-	-	8	1	12.5%
Sussex	5	2	3	2	-	-	8	4	50.0%
Union	9	2	3	1	-	-	12	3	25.0%
Warren	3	0	3	1	-	-	-	1	16.7%
Total	137	32	66	24	5	0	208	56	26.9%

*Note that only Atlantic, Bergen, Essex, and Mercer Counties have County Executives.

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