



EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

CENTER FOR AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 1, 2004**  
**Contact: Debbie Walsh, 732-932-9384 x227**

**New Jersey Counties Fail To Show Improvement**

Center for American Women and Politics releases another report card on number of elected women officials, showing little progress.

TRENTON, N.J. – New Jersey’s 21 counties are heading for detention, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) and state political leaders who joined today to release the results of CAWP’s 2004 County Report Card.

Since 2002, when CAWP first issued a report card highlighting New Jersey’s record in electing women as mayors and freeholders, grades have slipped and improvement is minimal. Using the grading system of Excellent, Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory, New Jersey remains truant, earning an overall “unsatisfactory.” The percentage of women mayors throughout the state is 12.7% (72 out of 566) and women represent 26.3% of all freeholder positions, or 36 out of 137. Clearly, New Jersey is suffering from FDD—Female Deficit Disorder.

“The numbers of women in local office are important because these offices are the training ground and pipeline for higher legislative positions,” said Democratic State Committee Chair Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman. “Unfortunately, this past November resulted in a net loss of one female legislator”

Debbie Walsh, director of CAWP, noted that the grades underscore missed opportunities by county party chairs. “There are numerous state legislative seats now held by men as a result of vacancies filled between elections,” said Walsh. “Rather than looking to available, well-qualified women to fulfill unexpired terms, party leaders opt to appoint men. Obviously, these appointees benefit from incumbency when the November elections take place.”

Republican State Committee Chair Senator Joseph Kyrillos joined Watson-Coleman, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin and GOP State Committee Co-chair Candace Straight in discussing the grades and marginal improvement since 2002. “Women are stepping up to the challenge and getting engaged in the political process,” said Straight. “The party leaders need to reach out and support the women who want to run.”

The report card provides comments with each grade of Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory; no county received a grade of Excellent in any category. Hudson County, with no women mayors and no women freeholders, a drop of 11.1% since 2002, earned a Unsatisfactory and garnered the comment “Just doesn’t get it!” Bergen County, with a 28.6% increase of women freeholders was given an Satisfactory in that category with the notation “Great improvement in freeholders; continues to need remedial work on mayors.”

191 RYDERS LANE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901-8557

Tel: (732) 932-9384  
Fax: (732) 932-0014

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
**RUTGERS**

E-mail: [cawp@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:cawp@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Web: [www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu)

Walsh pointed out that there are resources for women interested in seeking public office, including 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 will take place Saturday, April 24 at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick.

In addition, CAWP and Latinas United for Political Empowerment will host a special pre-**Ready to Run** session on Friday afternoon April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. The session entitled, **Elección Latina-NJ**, is open to all New Jersey Latinas thinking about running for office, seeking a higher office or managing a campaign. **Elección Latina-NJ** registrants will participate in **Ready to Run** on Saturday to learn more about the nuts and bolts of campaigns. Women interested in attending **Ready to Run** or **Elección Latina-NJ** should contact Amy Bain at CAWP (732-932-9384 ext. 260)

“There is good news this year in that there's been a slight increase of women freeholders, but the mayoral level is extremely disappointing,” said Commissioner Levin, a former mayor of Cherry Hill. “We MUST do more!”

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.

###

**FREEHOLDER/MAYOR  
PERCENT INCREASE/DECREASE  
2002 - 2004**

	Freeholders						Mayors					
	Total #	# of Women		% of Women		inc/dec	Total #	# of Women		% of Women		inc/dec
		2002	2004	2002	2004			2002	2004	2002	2004	
<b>Atlantic</b>	9	0	1	0.0%	11.1%	<b>11.1%</b>	23	1	0	4.3%	0.0%	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>Bergen</b>	7	1	3	14.3%	42.9%	<b>28.6%</b>	70	10	6	14.3%	8.6%	<b>-5.7%</b>
<b>Burlington</b>	5	2	2	40.0%	40.0%	<b>NC</b>	40	3	2	7.5%	5.0%	<b>-2.5%</b>
<b>Camden</b>	7	4	2	57.1%	28.6%	<b>-28.6%</b>	37	7	9	18.9%	24.3%	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Cape May</b>	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	<b>NC</b>	16	1	2	6.3%	12.5%	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>Cumberland</b>	7	2	3	28.6%	42.9%	<b>14.3%</b>	14	1	0	7.1%	0.0%	<b>-7.1%</b>
<b>Essex</b>	9	3	4	33.3%	44.4%	<b>11.1%</b>	22	2	1	9.1%	4.5%	<b>-4.5%</b>
<b>Gloucester</b>	7	1	1	14.3%	14.3%	<b>NC</b>	24	4	7	16.7%	29.2%	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Hudson</b>	9	1	0	11.1%	0.0%	<b>-11.1%</b>	12	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	<b>NC</b>
<b>Hunterdon</b>	5	1	2	20.0%	40.0%	<b>20.0%</b>	26	7	3	26.9%	11.5%	<b>-15.4%</b>
<b>Mercer</b>	7	3	3	42.9%	42.9%	<b>NC</b>	13	4	3	30.8%	23.1%	<b>-7.7%</b>
<b>Middlesex</b>	7	2	2	28.6%	28.6%	<b>NC</b>	25	4	3	16.0%	12.0%	<b>-4.0%</b>
<b>Monmouth</b>	5	1	1	20.0%	20.0%	<b>NC</b>	53	6	10	11.3%	18.9%	<b>7.5%</b>
<b>Morris</b>	7	2	2	28.6%	28.6%	<b>NC</b>	39	6	5	15.4%	12.8%	<b>-2.6%</b>
<b>Ocean</b>	5	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	<b>NC</b>	33	3	2	9.1%	6.1%	<b>-3.0%</b>
<b>Passaic</b>	7	3	3	42.9%	42.9%	<b>NC</b>	16	0	1	0.0%	6.3%	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>Salem</b>	7	1	2	14.3%	28.6%	<b>14.3%</b>	15	2	0	13.3%	0.0%	<b>-13.3%</b>
<b>Somerset</b>	5	1	1	20.0%	20.0%	<b>NC</b>	21	6	5	28.6%	23.8%	<b>-4.8%</b>
<b>Sussex</b>	5	2	2	40.0%	40.0%	<b>NC</b>	24	2	5	8.3%	20.8%	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Union</b>	9	2	2	22.2%	22.2%	<b>NC</b>	21	2	4	9.5%	19.0%	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>Warren</b>	3	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	<b>NC</b>	22	5	4	22.7%	18.2%	<b>-4.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<b>Red indicates negative change or No Change (NC)</b>												
Black indicates positive change												
© Copyright 2004. Center for American Women and Politics(CAWP)												

**2004 Overview of Freeholders by Party and Gender**  
**EMBARGOED UNTIL APRIL 1, 2004**

	<i>Total Freeholders</i>	<i>Women: Freeholders</i>	<i>% Women Freeholders</i>	<i>Total Dems</i>	<i>Dem Women</i>	<i>% Dem Women</i>	<i>Total Reps</i>	<i>Rep Women</i>	<i>% Rep Women</i>
<b>Atlantic</b>	9	1	11.1%	1	0	0.0%	8	1	12.5%
<b>Bergen</b>	7	3	42.9%	4	2	50.0%	3	1	33.3%
<b>Burlington</b>	5	2	40.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	2	40.0%
<b>Camden</b>	7	2	28.6%	7	2	28.6%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Cape May</b>	5	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	5		0.0%
<b>Cumberland</b>	7	3	42.9%	5	2	40.0%	2	1	50.0%
<b>Essex</b>	9	4	44.4%	8	3	37.5%	1	1	100.0%
<b>Gloucester</b>	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Hudson</b>	9	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Hunterdon</b>	5	2	40.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	2	40.0%
<b>Mercer</b>	7	3	42.9%	7	3	42.9%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Middlesex</b>	7	2	28.6%	7	2	28.6%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Monmouth</b>	5	1	20.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	1	20.0%
<b>Morris</b>	7	2	28.6%	0	0	0.0%	7	2	28.6%
<b>Ocean</b>	5	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%
<b>Passaic</b>	7	3	42.9%	5	3	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
<b>Salem</b>	7	2	28.6%	3	1	33.3%	4	1	25.0%
<b>Somerset</b>	5	1	20.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	1	20.0%
<b>Sussex</b>	5	2	40.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	2	40.0%
<b>Union</b>	9	2	22.2%	9	2	22.2%	0	0	0.0%
<b>Warren</b>	3	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
© Copyright 2004. Center for American Women and Politics(CAWP)									

## MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>DIST</b>	<b>APPOINTED</b>	<b>PARTY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>Previous Public Service</b>
<b>Atlantic</b>	Dist. 2	Assem. Kirk Conover	R	Jun-03	Freeholder
<b>Bergen</b>	Dist 36 -	Sen. Paul Sarlo	D	May-02	Mayor, Councilman
<b>Bergen</b>	Dist 36	Assem. Frederick Scalera	D	May-02	Governor's Task Force on Community Emergency Response
<b>Burlington</b>	Dist 30	Assem. Ronald Dancer	R	Jul-02	Mayor
<b>Gloucester</b>	Dist 4	Sen. George Geist	R	May-03	State Assembly
<b>Ocean</b>	Dist 9	Assem. Brian Rumf	R	Jan-00	Mayor, Township Committee
<b>Ocean</b>	Dist 11	Assem. Sean Kean	R	Oct-02	Township Planning Board
<b>Union</b>	Dist 21	Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr	R	Jan-03	State Assembly
<b>Union</b>	Dist 21	Assem. Jon Bramnick	R	Feb-03	Plainfield City Councilman
<b>Union</b>	Dist 22	Senator Nicolas Scutari	D	Sep-03	Freeholder