



NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INC.

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N.C. CENTER HIGHLIGHTS MOST INFLUENTIAL LOBBYISTS

Former legislators continue to be the most influential lobbyists, says the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in its listing of the fifteen top lobbyists in the 1983 North Carolina General Assembly.

The Center surveys legislators, lobbyists, and capital news correspondents biennially to determine the effectiveness of legislators and of lobbyists. Rankings of each legislator's effectiveness were released on April 16th, while the list of "most influential" lobbyists was released today in the latest edition of Article II: A Guide to the N.C. Legislature. The Center is a private, non-profit group that examines state government policies and legislative trends.

Banks, manufacturing industries, insurance, and trade associations have the most influential lobbyists in the legislature said the report. In the public sector, the legislative liaisons for the governor and the university system and the lobbyist for state employees also rate highly.

Lacy Maddox and Jim Bryan, who compiled the results, said it was the second time the Center had undertaken a ranking of lobbyists. They said the 15 top lobbyists represented a clear consensus of the persons who responded to the survey.

The most influential lobbyists, and who they represent, were as follows:

1. John Jordan of the law firm Jordan, Brown, Price and Wall represented banking, business, industry, and higher education interests including:
N.C. Bankers Association, N.C. Association of ABC Boards, Hospital Corporation of America, Association of N.C. Life Insurance Companies, N.C. Wholesalers Association and University of North Carolina (in his capacity as chairman of the University Board of Governors, not as paid lobbyist).

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2. Sam Johnson of the law firm Johnson, Gamble and Shearon represented business and industry interests including:
N.C. Associated Industries, N.C. Automobile Dealers Association, N.C. Health Care Facilities Association, N.C. Merchants Association, and Soap and Detergent Association.
3. Zebulon Alley of the Governor's Office represented James B. Hunt Jr. and his administration.
4. J. Ruffin Bailey of the law firm Bailey, Dixon, Wooten, McDonald and Fountain represented insurance and business interests including:
American Insurance Association, N.C. Beer Wholesalers Association, and N.C. Credit Union League.
5. R. D. McMillan of the University of North Carolina General Administration represented the University of North Carolina System.
6. Emmett Wynn Burden of the North Carolina State Employees' Association, represented member state employees.
7. Virgil L. McBride represented R. J. Reynolds Industries.
8. Alan D. Briggs represented the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers.
9. Gordon Phillip Allen Sr. represented the League of Savings Institutions.
- (tie) 10. William E. Holman represented:
N.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Conservation Council of N.C.

John I. Wilson of the North Carolina Association of Educators represented member educators.
12. William Friday, President of the University of North Carolina represented the University of North Carolina System.
13. Lindsay C. Warren Jr. of the law firm Taylor, Warren, Kerr and Walker represented:
Mortgage Bankers Association of the Carolinas, N.C. Bus Association, and N.C. Motor Carriers Association.
14. Robert R. Harris represented Carolina Power & Light Company.
15. C. Ronald Aycock represented the N.C. Association of County Commissioners.

The Center's release highlighted three trends in the rankings. First, eight of the top fifteen lobbyists (Jordan, Johnson, Alley, Bailey, McMillan, Burden, Allen, and Warren) are former state legislators. Second, Maddox and Bryan said, this year's responses marked the first time that lobbyists who did not

represent business or government agencies were listed as being among the most influential. Examples of this new development are William E. Holman, lobbyist for environmental groups, and John I. Wilson of the N.C. Association of Educators.

"Most people tend to lump lobbyists together, but this listing shows that lobbyists are an increasingly diverse group," said Lacy Maddox, who is Research Coordinator for the N.C. Center. "They may represent certain industries, they may be state or local government spokespersons, or they may be interested in a particular issue," she added.

The third trend noted by the Center was that four of the top five lobbyists also finished high in the 1981-82 rankings. Only Tom White, who represented the Tobacco Tax Council, dropped out of the top five in the latest listing. In 1982, the top five were Jordan, Johnson, White, Bailey, and Alley, in that order.

The ranking of lobbyists, as well as the ranking of each legislator's effectiveness, is included in the Center's fourth edition of Article II: A Guide to the Legislature. It is a directory of legislators serving in the 1983 and 1984 sessions that includes their voting records, biographical information, and comparisons of their effectiveness as rated by the Center's surveys. Copies of Article II may be obtained for \$6.00 from the N.C. Center at P. O. Box 430, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

For more information, call Beth Briggs at (919) 832-2839.