

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE N.C. CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH
IN 1992**

- A. Actions Taken by the Legislative Branch In Response to Center Research**
1. The 1992 General Assembly enacted four of the Center's recommendations to improve voter participation including:
 - * allowing voter registration by mail,
 - * shortening the registration deadline from 21 to 16 days before elections,
 - * improving the "motor voter" program for registering voters at motor vehicle offices, and
 - * requiring statewide voter registration drives in even-numbered years.

N.C. Insight, Vol. 13, #2
(June 1991)

 2. The 1992 General Assembly appropriated \$16 million for equalization funds for small and poor county school systems for Fiscal Year 1992-93.

1984 & 1985 studies and
N.C. Focus (October 1989)

 3. The 1992 legislature also abolished the Council on Interstate Cooperation, one of 98 boards the Center had targeted as inactive, ineffective, or duplicative in a 1985 report, bringing the total number of boards abolished to 81.

Boards, Commissions & Councils in the Executive Branch of N.C. State Government

 4. The Center was invited to testify before two legislative study commissions in 1992 -- The Legislative Research Commission on Methods to Improve Voter Participation and the Legislative Research Commission on Access to Health Insurance.

N.C. Insight, Vol. 13, #2
(June 1991) and
N.C. Insight, Vol. 13, #3-4
(November 1991)

 5. Center publications were handed out as resources to legislators in committee on 5 topics during the session:
 - a. Mountain area land management & planning

N.C. Insight, Vol. 13, #1
(December 1990)
 - b. Access to health care & cost containment

N.C. Insight, Vol. 13, #3-4
(November 1991)
 - c. Merit selection of judges

N.C. Insight, Vol. 9, #4
(June 1987)
 - d. Whether to elect or appoint the superintendent of Public Instruction

N.C. Insight, Vol. 12, #4
(September 1990)
 - e. State real property transfers (study commission)

This Land Is Your Land (1977)

 6. The Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives notified the Center in a letter that he is working toward having the 1993 House open with an electronic voting system that would make it possible for citizens to look up voting records for their representatives, as the Center has recommended since 1984.

B. Actions Taken by The Executive Branch

1. The Department of Environment, Health & Natural Resources continued working to implement an Environmental Indicators Program, an idea originally conceived and recommended by the Center in 1988. The department plans to release its first report in late 1993. N.C. Insight, Vol. 11, #1 (October 1988)
2. The Director of The State Board of Elections issued a directive requiring all legislative candidates to file a copy of their campaign finance disclosure reports in Raleigh, thereby providing easier access and one central location for the public and media, as recommended by the Center in 1990. Campaign Disclosure Laws (March 1990)

C. The Center's Increasing Profile in the Electronic Media in its Public Education Role

1. The Center and the UNC Center for Public Television jointly produced two new public affairs specials, "The Right to Vote" and "Rewarding Excellence" [in teaching in the UNC system].
2. In June, WUNC-TV re-broadcast five of the eight specials previously jointly produced with the Center.
3. The Center's Director appeared on "Political View" on Raleigh-Durham Cable TV every Wednesday & Friday evening for six weeks prior to and after the election.
4. The Center's Director provided election-night analysis on the 90-station N.C. [Radio] News Network for the May primary and November general election.
5. Insight editor Mike McLaughlin made 5 appearances on the public television show, "N.C. This Week."
6. The N. C. Department of Public Instruction has scheduled two of the Center's public affairs TV specials -- "The Right To Vote" and "Down in the Dumps" for broadcast in School Television's 1992-93 schedule.

D. The Center's Continuing Presence in the Print Media and in Public Appearances

1. The Center's work was the subject of 523 newspaper articles and 117 editorials or columns in 1992, an average of about 1.5 a day somewhere in North Carolina. When we issued a news release, we received on average, coverage in 59 articles in 36 newspapers.
2. The Center's publications and articles have been reprinted in many other local, state, and national publications, including State Policy Reports, North Carolina magazine, (N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry), U.S. News and World Report, Governing, Voices (N.C. School Boards Association), Triangle Business, County Lines (N.C. Association of County Commissioners), Nonprofit World, Southern Exposure, Veterans News, Modern Healthcare, and State Government: CQ's Guide to Current Issues and Activities, 1991-92.
3. Center staff have made about 29 speeches and public presentations this year.