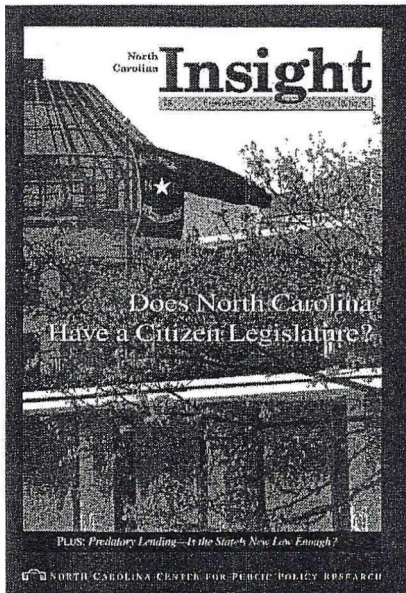


FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ... A voice for good government
May-June-July 2000



Citizen Legislature an Endangered Species, Center says

Like the red-cockaded woodpecker, the citizen legislature is an endangered species in North Carolina, said the Center in the last edition of *North Carolina Insight*. The state is drifting toward a full-time or professional legislature, but with pay and benefits lingering at the part-time level due to the political difficulty of raising legislators' salaries.

The Center's research noted five indicators of a drift away from a part-time legislature: (1) increasingly long legislative sessions, especially when the House and Senate are controlled by different parties; (2) nine special sessions during the 1990s to deal with issues that arose when the General Assembly was out of session; (3) more study commissions convening between sessions; (4) appropriations committees meeting between the two most recent sessions; and (5) special investigative committees taking on a life of their own during and between sessions. Currently, 10 states are governed by professional legislature and 16 by citizen or part-time legislatures, while 24 states, including North Carolina, are hybrids.

Study authors Mike McLaughlin and Ran Coble said there is no consensus on what a citizen legislature is or on what the problem is, and therefore no consensus on

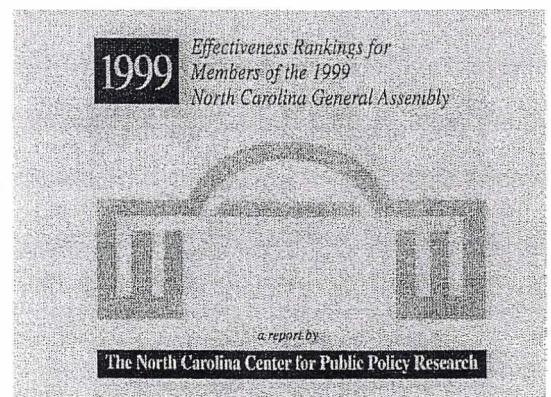
the solution. For those who define a citizen legislature as one where ordinary citizens hold other jobs but come to Raleigh part of the year as legislators, the solution is to limit session length by a constitutional or statutory amendment or a rules change. For those who define a citizen legislature as one that is representative of the citizenry, the solution is higher pay to enable people from more walks of life to serve. And, for those who define a citizen legislature as one in which any citizen can afford to run and serve, the solution is public financing of political campaigns.

The Center's study of citizen legislatures was covered in 44 articles in 31 newspapers, as well as by the 90-station N.C. Radio News Network, the 7-station public radio network, and the statewide public television program, *North Carolina Now*. The disagreement on solutions also was reflected in editorials and columns. A *Charlotte Observer* editorial advocated preserving a citizen legislature, the *Hickory Daily Record* advocated a full-time legislature but with term limits, and the *Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald* pushed for limits on the length of sessions.

The issue of *Insight* containing this research is available for \$8.00, plus postage and handling. You may call Sandy Provenzano at (919) 832-2839, or visit our website at www.ncinsider.com/nccppr to order a copy.

Center Rankings of Legislators' Effectiveness Show Some of the Most Effective Are Leaving

The Center's latest rankings of legislators' effectiveness are out and demonstrate once again that legislative turnover is a fact of life in North Carolina – even for the top dogs. Indeed, some of the most effective legislators in the 1999-2000 N.C. General Assembly will not be back in 2001. Some legislators are running for higher office, some are switching to the judicial branch or to lobbying, and some are retiring. And, three incumbent legislators suffered electoral defeat in the May primary. "Over the last 20 years, turnover in the North Carolina legislature has averaged about a fifth of the Senate and a fourth of the House in each session," says Center executive director Ran Coble. "This year, one of the most important developments is who is leaving. At least nineteen legislators, including some of the most effective legislators in both parties, won't be back in 2001."



In the Senate, Majority Leader Roy Cooper (D-Nash), ranked 3rd, is running for Attorney General, while Senators Beverly Perdue (D-Craven) and Betsy Cochrane (R-Davie), ranked 6th and 16th respectively, are running for Lieutenant Governor. In the House, Rep. Leo Daughtry (R-Johnston) and former Rep. Chuck Neely (R-Wake), ranked 8th and 20th in effectiveness, respectively, ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for Governor. Rep. Cherie Berry (R-Catawba) also is leaving the House to run for Labor Commissioner. Rep. Jerry Braswell (D-Wayne), ranked 18th, has switched over to the judicial branch after being appointed a Superior Court judge, while Rep. Thomas Hardaway (D-Halifax), ranked 11th, is now a lobbyist for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America in Atlanta. Former four-time Speaker of the House Rep. Liston Ramsey (D-Madison) is retiring, as are Representatives John Brown (R-Wilkes), James Carpenter (R-Macon), Paul "Jaybird" McCrary (D-Davidson), Richard Moore (D-Cabarrus), and Timothy Tallent (R-Cabarrus), as well as Senators Don East (R-Surry) and Jim Phillips (D-Davidson). Representatives George Miller (D-Durham), Ted Kinney (D-Cumberland), and Steve Wood (R-Guilford) were defeated in their party primaries. Wood and Daughtry are taking steps to still get on the ballot in November.

The Center's rankings are based on surveys completed by the legislators themselves, by registered lobbyists and lead legislative liaisons who are based in North Carolina and who regularly work in the General Assembly, and by capital news correspondents. These three groups were asked to rate each legislator's effectiveness on the basis of participation in committee work, skill at guiding bills through floor debate, and general knowledge or expertise in special fields. The respondents also were asked to consider the respect legislators command from their peers, the political power they hold (by virtue of office, longevity, or personal attributes), their ability to sway the opinions of fellow legislators, and their aptitude for the overall legislative process.

As usual, the Center's rankings received a great deal of media attention, with 96 articles in 55 newspapers from Burgaw to Brevard and Southport to Sylva. As the Concord *Independent Tribune* put it, "The Center's rankings aren't the final word on legislators and their effectiveness. But they are a pretty good gauge."

Sustaining Public School Reforms and State Lotteries Headline the Next *Insight*

The next edition of *North Carolina Insight* addresses the question, "Has North Carolina engaged in stop-and-start education reform?" Since 1983, the state has enacted the Basic Education Plan, a career ladder for teachers, outcome-based education, and charter schools legislation, among other reforms. The Center evaluates 10 school reforms begun since 1983 and finds that many have been abandoned without sufficient time to evaluate their success or full funding. However, there is a thread of continuity in recent moves toward raising teacher pay and increased accountability for student performance encompassed in the current ABC plan. Will the state stay the course? That remains to be seen when the next governor takes office.

Along with examining the state's record in sustaining public school reforms, the next *Insight* also takes a detailed look at the 38 state lotteries now in operation. The Center answers 13 research questions, including whether lotteries are reliable sources of revenue, how lottery revenues are earmarked, whether lotteries prey on the poor and uneducated, and whether lottery revenues enhance normal levels of funding for education or whether lawmakers merely substitute lottery revenues for normal appropriation levels. The lottery will be a key issue in the fall campaign for governor and likely will come up in the 2001 legislative session. The Center last looked at state lotteries in 1984.

New Research Reports Ready on Rankings of Most Influential Lobbyists and Higher Education Governance

In July, the Center will release its biennial rankings of *The 50 Most Influential Lobbyists in the N.C. General Assembly*. The rankings show who has clout in the legislature and identify trends in the lobbying profession, as former legislators become lobbyists, more people lobby on contract or in teams, and more women enter the ranks of the top lobbyists. The lobbyist rankings also illustrate shifts in the state's economy and point out which issues were hot in a particular session. The new rankings will be released after the legislature adjourns.

In August, the Center will release the second in a series of four reports on higher education governance. This report will examine how all 50 states govern their institutions of higher education. Twenty-four states have consolidated governing boards like North Carolina's UNC Board of Governors, which governs 16 public universities. The study shows that North Carolina has the largest central board, has one of only two boards elected by a state legislature, and has the second lowest student tuition rates in the nation. The state is in the top ten in student enrollment in public higher education institutions, state appropriations for higher education, and full-time faculty salaries. These and other findings can be found in this 200-page book entitled *Governance and Coordination of Public Higher Education in All 50 States*. Call Sandy Provenzano at (919) 832-2839 to order these reports.

Special Thanks To Our Foundation and Corporate Contributors

Benefactors (\$2,000+)

Bank of America
Corning, Inc.
Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.
Lorillard Tobacco
Nationwide Insurance
PCS Phosphate

Patrons (\$1,000 - \$1,999)

Asheboro Elastics
AT&T
CommScope
Jefferson-Pilot Financial
Nortel Networks
Nucor Corporation
Sprint
The Wachovia Foundation

Supporters (\$500 - \$999)

Biltmore Farms
Carocon Corporation
Glen Raven Mills
Guilford Mills

Lexington State Bank
Occidental Chemical Corp.
*Partners Health Plan of N.C.
Springs Industries
VF Corporation
WSOC-TV

Donors

(\$300 - \$499)

Biltmore Estates
United Healthcare

Corporate or Full-Service Members

(\$200 - \$299)

American Institute of Architects – N.C. Chapter
Asheville Citizen-Times Publishing Co.
*James D. Bernstein – N.C. Foundation for Advanced Health Programs
Michael C. Blackwell – Baptist Children's Homes of N.C., Inc.
Joe Bryan, Jr.

Cogentrix Energy, Inc.
Ray Cope – Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
John Corbett – West Virginia Education Alliance
Loleta Wood Foster
Watts Hill, Jr.

Lee Iron and Metal Co.
Mayview Convalescent Center
N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers
N.C. Press Association
N.C. Restaurant Association
Northeast Medical Center
*Charles Phillips
*Sen. Tony Rand
*William Scoggin – Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman
Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

*Indicates new contributors or those rejoining after an absence of a year or more

Welcome New Members; Thanks To Supporting Members Who Renewed

New Members

Peggy Carter
Patricia Shore Clark
Rep. Leo Daughtry
Jennifer Delp-Public Administration Program, NCSU
Bernetta R. Evans – Everett Law Library, Chapel Hill
Sandra B. Greene
H. Glen Hargett, Jr.
Lori Ann Harris
Mike Jones
Elizabeth Kolb - N.C. Education Research Council
Legislative Research Library- Louisiana House of Representatives
Thelma Lennon
Lacy Maddox
Pat Moss
N.C. Legislative Library
Paul Charles Passaro
Waltye Rasulala
Sen. Eric Reeves
Weaver B. Rogers
Michael E. Rulison - N.C. Consumers Council
Pamela Seamans
Paul H. Thompson Library- Fayetteville Technical Community College
Lana J. Vanderlinden

Carolyn A. Waller
Bertram E. Walls
Anita Ware

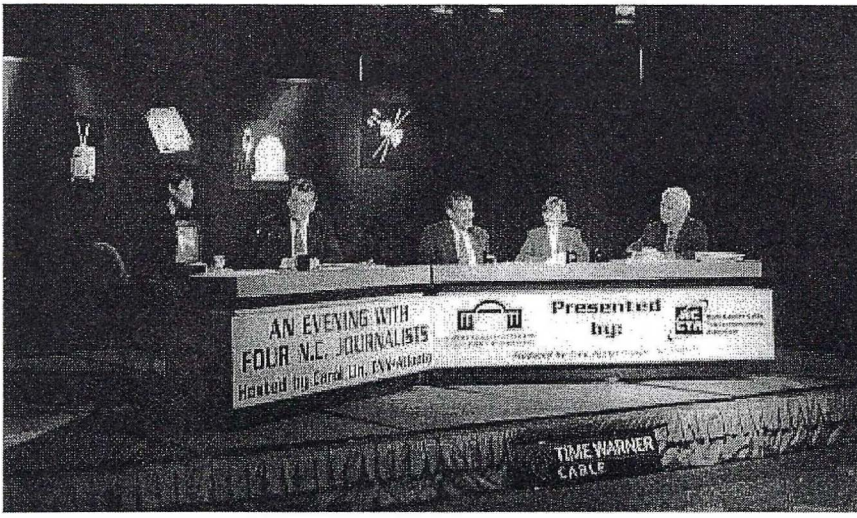
Individual Supporting Members

Zeb Alley
Rep. Gene G. Arnold
Linda Ashendorf
Rep. Philip Baddour, Jr.
Thad Beyle
Leslie & Ret Boney
Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr.
Richard F. Bruch
*Rann Carpenter
Hugh E. and Nancy Carr
*George & Deborah Christie
Ned A. Cline
Rep. Nelson Cole
Sally & Alan Cone
Philip J. Cook
Douglas S. Dibbert
Jack Fleer
Rep. Lyons Gray
*Sen. Kay R. Hagan
Rep. R. Phillip Haire
Wade & Sandy Hargrove
Don Harrow
Sen. Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr.
Bertha "B" Holt
Eddie Hughes – Institute of Government Library
Joe Huneycutt

David L. Jones
Bob Jordan
*Betsy Y. Justus
Claudia Kadis
Peter Keber
Thomas S. Kenan, III
Jane Kendall & Ran Coble
Phil Kirk
*Ruth Klemmer
*Sen. Howard Lee
Marian Lowry
Susan Lupton & Robert Schall
Elaine F. Marshall
F.M. "Mac" Mauney, Jr.
John F. McNair, III
*Pat McLaughlin
*Ruth Mary Meyer
Ed Monroe
*Garrie Moore
N.C. Citizens for Business & Industry
Katherine C. Neal
D. Samuel Neill
Cary C. Owen
William "Cliff" Oxford
*William D. Parmelee
Robert & Cyndee Patterson
*Sen. Beverly M. Perdue
*Brad Phillips
*Mike Pittman
Mary Joan Pugh
*Sen. William Purcell
William Trent Ragland
*Janis L. Ramquist

Dennis & Betty Chafin Rash
H.D. Reaves, Jr.
James M. Rich, Jr.
John M. Rich
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Richmond
Thomas W. Ross
John & Sallie Shuping Russell
Charles A. Sanders
Robert W. Scott
Katherine Skinner
Molly Richardson Smith
Rep. Ronnie Smith
Sherwood H. Smith, Jr.
Craig Souza
Fred Stanback
Jack Stanley
H. Frank Starr, Jr.
Leonorah H. Stout
Anna Tefft & Win Lee
Margaret Tennille
Lawrence E. Thompson, III
D. Jordan Whichard, III
Gordon P. Whitaker
*Ralph & Nina Yeager
Smedes York

*Indicates new Individual Supporting Members and Full-Service Members or those increasing their support to these levels



An Evening With CNN's Carol Lin and Four N.C. Journalists

On February 23, 2000, the Center invited Carol Lin, national co-anchor of "NewsStand" and "Early Edition" for CNN; John Bason, co-host of "Legislative Week in Review" on statewide public television and host of Time Warner Cable's "Legislative Update" program; Allen Johnson, editorial page editor of *The News & Record* in Greensboro; Kirsten Mitchell, Washington correspondent for the *Winston-Salem Journal*; and Rolfe Neill, former publisher of *The Charlotte Observer*, to discuss issues facing North Carolina over the next decade.

The event was co-sponsored with the N.C. Cable Telecommunications Association in Greensboro. As in our "Evening with Bill Friday and Four Governors" in 1996 and "An Evening with Four Educators" in 1998, Time Warner Cable videotaped the program for later broadcast on cable systems across the state. All three programs now have won national awards for excellence in cable programming.

The panelists discussed key issues facing North Carolina and the country in the first decade of the 21st century. Other topics included (1) the character of North Carolina and what makes it different from other states; (2) the next era of state politics and leadership; and (3) the state of journalism (newspapers, radio, television, and the Internet) in North Carolina and nationally, especially in coverage of state-level policy issues and state government. Look for re-runs of the program on your local cable TV station.



North Carolina Center for
Public Policy Research, Inc.
P. O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #1121
Raleigh, N.C.