

2011 North Carolina Women's Legislative Agenda

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- ♀ **Protect Access to All Reproductive Health Care.** Ensure that NC women are able to access the full range of safe and legal reproductive health care options, including abortion care, without government intrusion or restriction. (*Oppose S.B. 73*)
- ♀ **Protect Home & Community Care Block Grant Funding.** Maintain funding at the present level for the Home and Community Care Block Grant—as recommended by the Legislative Study Commission on Aging—to preserve home-delivered services for low-income elderly persons so that they can remain in their homes. (*Budget*)
- ♀ **License and Regulate Certified Professional Midwives.** Provide state licensure and regulation of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) for women who choose to give birth in out-of-hospital settings.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EQUALITY

- ♀ **Enhance Open, Ethical Government.** Open the legislative process to increase public awareness of who benefits and who loses as the budget and other laws are considered by providing more rapid, electronic disclosure of how money flows into election campaigns.
- ♀ **Protect and Expand Voter Owned Elections.** Provide an alternative, “clean” source of funding for campaigns so candidates don't have to rely on large donors and special interests.
- ♀ **Protect Voter Rights.** Build a strong, healthy civic life for North Carolinians by focusing on legislation that encourages voter turnout and civic participation, not suppressing voter rights to disproportionately affect people of color, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women.
- ♀ **Fight Marriage Discrimination.** Ensure that NC continues to be the most inclusive, equitable and fair state in the southeast by defending against attacks to amend the State Constitution to explicitly discriminate against same-sex couples. (*Oppose S.B. 106*)
- ♀ **Protect all NC Children.** Ensure that all children attending public schools continue to be protected from bullying and harassment while also protecting their right to receive medically-accurate information about their sexual health.
- ♀ **Prevent Racial Profiling.** Protect the civil rights of those who have traditionally been denied those rights because of race, ethnicity, or national origin.

STATEMENT ON THE NC BUDGET

- ♀ North Carolina's future prosperity will be determined by the extent to which the needs of women and their families are prioritized. We urge lawmakers to protect investments in the critical public services that pave the way to success by making women and families healthier, happier and stronger.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- ♀ **Expand the Definition of “Family” within FMLA.** Include provisions for workers to use their leave time to care for a sibling, grandparent or grandchild under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- ♀ **Housing Trust Fund Appropriations.** Provide \$50 million for each year of the biennium for the Housing Trust Fund. (*Budget*)
- ♀ **Protect Childcare Subsidies.** Ensure that low-income families can access high-quality, affordable childcare so that women are able to work outside the home, conduct job searches and pursue post-secondary education. (*Budget*)
- ♀ **Maintain the Earned Income Tax Credit.** Aid low- and moderate-income working families by protecting North Carolina's refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). (*Oppose H.B. 93*).

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- ♀ **Maintain Funding for Victim Assistance Programs.** Ensure that rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs maintain state appropriated funding distributed through the NC Council for Women and that the Rape Victim Assistance Fund and the Crime Victims Compensation Fund are adequately funded and accessible to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.
- ♀ **Clarify and Enhance Statutes Relating to Violence Against Women.** Expand NC SAVAN to provide for statewide, automated notification of protective orders to victims of domestic violence. Clarify consent in the rape statute and ensure that sex crime statutes are gender neutral.
- ♀ **Strengthen Response to Criminal Domestic Violence Offenses.** Strengthen penalties for domestic violence crimes, require mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders and require that probationary sentences be supervised.
- ♀ **NC Human Trafficking Commission.** Create NC Human Trafficking Commission within the Department of Administration.
- ♀ **Require training** on domestic violence and sexual assault for prosecutors, magistrates, mediators, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, guardian ad litem, and educators in the public school system.

STATEMENT ON REVENUE

- ♀ We recognize that none of these investments in North Carolina's future are possible without adequate resources. For this reason, we urge lawmakers to take a balanced approach to the state budget by raising new revenues.

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NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN UNITED

NC Women United is a coalition of progressive organizations committed to achieving full equality and empowerment for women through public policy and grassroots advocacy. NC Women United works to advance public policy that:

- ♀ Increases the participation of women as voters, leaders, and decision-makers in the political process;
- ♀ Ensures freedom from domestic violence and sexual assault;
- ♀ Protects and advances reproductive freedom;
- ♀ Promotes access to training and educational opportunities that lead to meaningful employment;
- ♀ Provides full and equal civil rights;
- ♀ Recognizes and responds to the needs of women and their families for affordable and accessible services, including health care, child care, and elder care;
- ♀ Secures pay equity and economic self-sufficiency;
- ♀ Eliminates hunger, poverty, and homelessness;
- ♀ Ends discrimination in all areas of public life.

2010 - 2011 NCWU Members

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| ♀ AAUW NC | ♀ NC College of Nurse Midwives |
| ♀ Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC | ♀ NC Friends of Midwives |
| ♀ Carteret County Women's Resource Center | ♀ NC Justice Center |
| ♀ Democracy North Carolina | ♀ NC Momsrising |
| ♀ Equality NC | ♀ NC National Organization for Women |
| ♀ InterAct | ♀ NC Stop Human Trafficking |
| ♀ Ipas | ♀ NC Women's Political Caucus |
| ♀ League of Women Voters - Asheville-Buncombe County | ♀ Onslow County Commission for Women |
| ♀ League of Women Voters NC | ♀ Planned Parenthood Health Systems |
| ♀ Mecklenburg County Women's Commission | ♀ Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina |
| ♀ Mothers & More (Greater Raleigh/Durham) | ♀ Triangle Older Women's League |
| ♀ NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina | ♀ WomenNC - NC Committee for CSW/CEDAW |
| ♀ National Association of Women Business Owners - Raleigh | ♀ The Women's Center (Chapel Hill) |
| ♀ NC Association of Women Attorneys | ♀ Women's Forum of NC |
| ♀ NC Business and Professional Women Foundation | ♀ Women's Graceful Healing Ministry |
| ♀ NC Center for Women in Public Service | ♀ Women's Resource Center (Hickory) |
| ♀ NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence | ♀ Women's Resource Center in Alamance County |
| ♀ NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault | |