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For Immediate Release

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**CAWP's New Jersey County Report Card:
Record Number of Women Serving as County Freeholders;
Mayor Seats Remain Overwhelmingly Male-Dominated**

Updated on 4.2.19 to reflect the inclusion of an additional freeholder in Camden County named to fill a vacancy.

The [Center for American Women and Politics](#) (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, has released today the first part of its New Jersey County Report Card, tracking women county freeholders and mayors around the state. For the first time in history, 44 women serve as county freeholders in New Jersey, an increase of 5 over the previous year, making up 33% of all freeholders in the state. In addition, 14 women of color serve as freeholders, 10% of the total number of freeholders, including 7 Black women, 5 Latinas, and 2 Asian Pacific Islander women. Around the state, 86 women serve as mayors, increasing from 80, but still comprising only 15% of all New Jersey mayors.

In the tables below, CAWP has compiled the numbers of women freeholders and mayors by county, and provides a county ranking based on the proportion of women serving in these positions. The top three counties for women's representation on freeholder boards are Somerset (60%), Bergen (57%), and Union (56%), where women hold a majority of the available positions. By contrast, both Salem and Warren counties have zero women serving as freeholders. Union (38%), Mercer (33%), and Hunterdon (27%) counties have the highest proportion of women serving as mayors. The bottom seven counties in our mayoral rankings see women holding less than 10% of those offices, and Hudson County has zero women among its 12 mayors.

"Much attention has been paid recently to the record numbers of women running for office nationally, but this report makes it clear that there is much work to be done to recruit and encourage women to run for local office here in the Garden State," noted CAWP associate director Jean Sinzduk. "We urge New Jersey women to throw their hats in the ring, and we ask our county party leaders on both sides of the aisle to use their influence to recruit women to run."

Sinzduk invited Garden State women to learn more about running by attending Ready to Run®, CAWP's non-partisan campaign training for women, which will take place March 15-16, 2019 in New Brunswick. "Ready to Run® gives women essential tools to prepare for their political future and make a difference in their communities."

Information and registration is available on the [CAWP website](#).

Part two of our New Jersey County Report Card will be released in the coming months, and will be comprised of data on city council members throughout the state, as well as an *overall* county ranking compiled from the freeholder, mayor, and council member rankings. Stay tuned.

Proportion of Women Freeholders by County - 2019

Source: Center for American Women and Politics

Note: +/- indicates gains/losses of women freeholders in the specified county

County	Total Freeholders	Women: Freeholders	%	Rank
Somerset	5	3 (+3)	60%	1
Bergen	7	4	57%	2
Union	9	5 (+2)	56%	3
Atlantic	9	4	44%	4
Mercer	7	3 (+1)	43%	5
Middlesex	7	3	43%	5
Morris	7	3 (-1)	43%	5
Camden	7	3 (+1)	43%	5
Hunterdon	5	2 (+1)	40%	9
Monmouth	5	2 (+1)	40%	9
Sussex	5	2 (+1)	40%	9
Cumberland	7	2	29%	12
Essex	9	2 (-1)	22%	13
Burlington	5	1 (-1)	20%	14
Cape May	5	1	20%	14
Ocean	5	1	20%	14
Gloucester	7	1	14%	17
Passaic	7	1	14%	17
Hudson	9	1	11%	19
Salem	5	0 (-1)	0%	20
Warren	3	0	0%	20
Total	135	44 (+5)	33%	

Proportion of Women Mayors by County - 2019

Source: Center for American Women and Politics

Note: +/- indicates gains/losses in number of women mayors in the specified county.

County	Total: Mayors	Women: Mayors	%	Rank
Union	21	8 (+2)	38%	1
Mercer	12	4 (+1)	33%	2
Hunterdon	26	7 (+1)	27%	3
Sussex	24	6 (+2)	25%	4
Monmouth	53	11 (+3)	21%	5
Burlington	40	8 (+2)	20%	6
Somerset	21	4 (+3)	19%	7
Gloucester	24	4	17%	8
Camden	37	5 (-2)	14%	9
Atlantic	23	3 (+1)	13%	10
Cape May	16	2	13%	10
Middlesex	25	3	12%	12
Morris	39	4 (-1)	10%	13
Bergen	70	7 (-2)	10%	13
Essex	22	2 (-1)	9%	15
Ocean	33	3	9%	15
Warren	22	2	9%	15
Cumberland	14	1 (-1)	7%	18
Salem	15	1 (-1)	7%	18
Passaic	16	1	6%	20
Hudson	12	0 (-1)	0%	21
Total	565	86 (+6)	15%	

About CAWP

The [Center for American Women and Politics \(CAWP\)](#), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers-New Brunswick, is nationally recognized as the leading source of scholarly research and current data about American women's political participation. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. CAWP's education and outreach programs translate research findings into action, addressing women's under-representation in political leadership with effective, imaginative programs serving a variety of audiences. As the world has watched Americans considering female candidates for the nation's highest offices, CAWP's over four decades of analyzing and interpreting women's participation in American politics have provided a foundation and context for the discussion.