



Appendix 3  
Letter to Board of Commissioners

The LWV of the United States believes democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government.

To measure the extend that citizens of Henderson County participate in their local government and the degree of satisfaction they receive in that service, the local league is undertaking ONE piece of the participatory role open to citizens, i.e., Advisory Boards and Committees.

At the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters last May, the members voted a new local study related to transparency and democracy of Advisory Boards in Henderson County. The Sunshine Laws of NC and League principles will serve to guide the committee in developing the survey format.

Three different sets of interview questions have been developed: one of the members of the Advisory Committees, one for citizens attending the meetings of the Advisory Committees, and one for the current Board of Commissioners. Only members of each Board/Committee who have been appointed by the County Board in an open appointment process will be interviewed. If more than four people have appointed positions on any given Board, the League member will seek to reach at least four of the members.

To make the study manageable yet credible, the League Committee has developed specific criteria for the selection of the advisory boards to be included in this study. Those that meet regularly on a monthly basis and make recommendations relative to either policy and/or budget will be surveyed. The three different categories of committees/Boards are:

1. Two Boards that meet monthly and have significant budget requests, i.e., the Social Services Board (2 positions) and the Board of Health (11 positions);
2. Those Advisory Boards that meet monthly, receive significant dollars from the County and are staffed by a County employee (11);
3. Those Advisory Boards/Committees that meet monthly receive tax money and are staffed by executive directors who are not supervised by the County. (5)

Depending on the time constraints of the volunteers who will carry out this research project, the League members anticipate completing the interviews through December, 2010. Be assured that no county staff will be interviewed – only citizens who attend the public meetings of the advisory committees, members of the advisory committees and the current Board of Commissioners.

The League will publish the general results of the interviews (no names identified), conduct a consensus process among League members in April, 2011, and make the study available to the public. The League believes this study will raise awareness to the role Advisory Boards hold for citizen input for both policy and budget.

It is League's policy when conducting research interviews to have two members present when an interview/survey of this nature is conducted. The survey should take no more than fifteen minutes. Fourteen League members have volunteered to complete the survey work between October 1 and December 15.

All responses are confidential. There are no names attached to any of the survey forms.

On behalf of the League, we thank you for your cooperation in this research project.

Sincerely,

Nancy Glowacki  
President, LWV of Henderson County

Lee Luebbe  
Chair, Local Advisory Committee Study