

Testimony
Office of Governor Dalrymple
Judiciary Interim Committee
Senator David Hogue, Chairman
May 6, 2014

My name is Amanda Godfread and I work with the board and commission appointments for the North Dakota Governor's Office. North Dakota has 145 boards, commissions, committees and councils to which the governor makes appointments. Currently, Governor Dalrymple is responsible for more than 1,000 individual appointments. All appointments made by Governor Dalrymple are first and foremost to the best qualified candidates.

Based on the laws outlining each board's membership, the governor may appoint as few as one member or as many as all members to a board. Various qualifications, characteristics or term limits may be identified within the laws. Specifically, North Dakota law, NDCC Sect. 54-06-19, requires that gender balance be considered to the extent possible and to the extent that appointees are qualified to serve on those boards, commissions, committees and councils; geographical location and diversity is also considered.

Applications for board appointments are sought from the general public and are available online at www.governor.nd.gov. Depending on the board or commission, current members, associations, organizations, agencies, or businesses may solicit fellow North Dakotans to apply for membership and recommend those individuals to the governor's office. Additionally, staff members within the governor's office may also identify or work with outside organizations to identify potential applicants based on professional or personal expertise. Finally, North Dakotans may submit unsolicited applications for appointment to a specific board or to all boards.

Where outlined by law, the governor may make an appointment to a board using his full discretion. Elsewhere there are specific limitations such as needing to appoint a member from a list of nominees from a particular organization, association, or agency. In either instance, appointments are made first and foremost on the basis of an individual's ability to meaningfully contribute to the work of a board. Beyond that, gender and geographic balance are considered.

Board memberships are updated regularly based on term limits, resignations and other departures. Therefore, gender balance is best reported in percentages versus actual numbers, which may change daily.

As of April 24, 2014, the gender balance on all boards and commissions to which the North Dakota governor has appointments is approximately 60% men and 40% women.

Additionally, here are a few examples of gender balance on boards versus the balance of those employed within various professions. The national averages come from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Health/Medical Fields

- Physicians – National balance: 64% men, 36% women. State Board of Medical Examiners: 62% men, 38% women.
- Nurse Practitioners – National balance: 9% men, 91% women. State Board of Nursing: 10% men, 90% women.
- Pharmacists – National balance: 44% men and 56% women. State Board of Pharmacy: 29% men, 71% women.
- Occupational Therapists – National balance: 12% men, 88% women. State Board of Occupational Therapy: 20% men, 80% women.
- Physical Therapists: 39% men, 61% women. State Board of Physical Therapy: 66% men, 33% women.
- Veterinarians – National balance: 45% men, 55% women. State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners: 60% men, 40% women.

Agriculture

Nationwide the gender balance of agriculture occupations is 78% men and 22% women. North Dakota agriculture boards have the following gender balances:

- Agricultural Products Utilization Commission: 89% men, 11% women
- Animal Health: 78% men, 22% women.
- North Dakota Beef Commission: 66% men, 33% women
- Milk Marketing Board: 40% men, and 60% women
- North Dakota State Wheat Commission: 86% men, 14% women

Education

Nationwide, the gender balance of all education professions is 12% men and 78% women. North Dakota education boards have the following gender balances:

- Early Childhood Education Council: 44% men, 66% women
- Education Commission of the States: 57% men, 43% women
- Education Factfinding Commission: 66% men, 33% women
- Education Standards and Practices Board: 40% men, 60% women
- Education Technology Council: 66% men, 33% women
- State Board of Higher Education: 62% men, 38% women