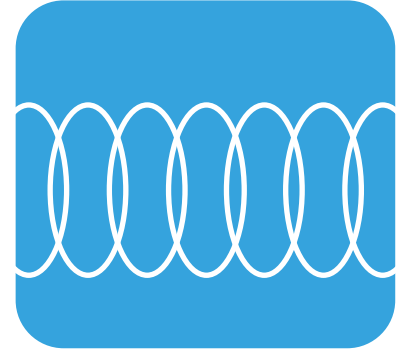




CORO

THE NEW GENERATIONS PROGRAM



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How Representative Are Allegheny County's Non-elected Public Officials? A Demographic Breakdown of Authorities, Boards, and Commissions

FINDINGS

In a survey of Allegheny County's boards, commissions, and authorities, Coro's New Generations Program found that...

African Americans make up 12 percent of the county population and hold a greater percentage, 17 percent, of the non-elected public positions.

Women make up 53 percent of the county population and 69 percent of the City of Pittsburgh's working adult population, but only hold 31 percent of the county's non-elected positions.

Young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 make up more than a quarter of the county population, but only 8 percent of non-elected officials are between these ages. This is less than the 12 percent of elected positions this age group holds.

THE REGION'S REPRESENTATION

Allegheny County is in transition. The region is buzzing with the election of a new County Chief Executive and county residents can expect many changes, opportunities, and challenges under a new administration. This new administration not only consists of those elected officials who got the most votes in November, but includes the people who are publicly appointed to serve on authorities, boards, and commissions for Allegheny County.

Allegheny County currently has 54 active boards, authorities, and commissions consisting of more than 500 people. Each board, authority, or commission has its own set of guidelines that determine who appoints and serves on the board. State law, the county's Home Rule Charter and administrative code, as well as other legal provisions can set these requirements. The membership of some boards comprises only elected officials, with no additional members from the general public. For example, the Allegheny County Elections Board consists only of the County Chief Executive and the two at-large County Council members. Others consist entirely of appointed members of the public: the five members of the Allegheny County Housing Authority are all appointed by the Chief Executive for a five year term.

While the officials serving on county boards may not have the name recognition or familiarity of some elected officials, they are still designated public servants and their importance and influence should not go unrecognized. Non-elected boards, authorities, and commissions have responsibilities that directly impact the day-to-day lives of Allegheny County citizens. Consider the importance of county boards. Streets, sidewalks and public areas are often repaired with loans approved by the Authority for the Improvement in Municipalities Board. Public transportation availability and fares are the responsibility of the Port Authority Board. The Carnegie Library Board oversees library services and the Regional Asset District Board is the main funder for local libraries. The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) Board sets educational offerings as well as tuition charges at CCAC. The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority could be responsible for your sewage service and the rates you pay for those services. The region's major league sports teams would have no place to play without the Sports and Exhibition Authority, which operates the two major stadiums and both Mellon Arena and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The impact made by county boards, authorities, and commissions plays a key role in the vitality, affordability, and perceptions of the Pittsburgh region.

In many ways, the people appointed to these institutions help determine the political, social, and economic future of our region and are making decisions that will affect the future of Allegheny County. They are appointed to serve the public, and despite their unelected status, represent the public in a very real sense.

Diversity has been identified as an issue for governing boards in all sectors, including government. Programs like Boards-By-Design and New Trustees for a New Pittsburgh were created to enhance board diversity in both the public and nonprofit sectors locally. While research has been conducted on diversity among nonprofit boards and regional elected officials,¹ we know little about the demographic make-up of public sector boards, authorities,

and commissions. How representative are the county's non-elected public officials?

This brief report aims to answer that question. It offers the county a glimpse of the demographic composition of an important set of decision-makers, and can serve as a benchmark or baseline for those doing the appointing as well as the general public.

We contacted every board, authority, and commission listed on the Allegheny County website to obtain information about the race, gender, and age of non-elected officials. Of the 54 boards contacted, 43 groups responded to our request, providing information about 450 non-elected officials.²

FINDINGS Race

In 2000, Allegheny County had approximately 1.27 million residents. Of these, the vast majority were white (84 percent). African-Americans were by far the largest minority group, with about 12 percent of the population. Asian-Americans came in a distant third, with nearly two percent of the population.

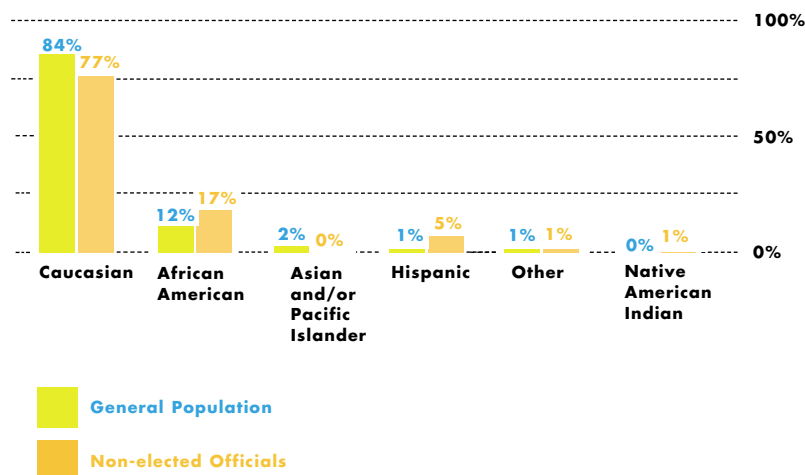
Our sample of non-elected officials roughly mirrored the population, with a few exceptions. Whites hold the majority of non-elected positions, holding 77 percent of the spots surveyed, slightly lower than the 84 percent in

the total population. African-Americans, by contrast, held 17 percent of the non-elected positions among responders, substantially higher than their 12 percent share of county population.³ Asian-Americans were underrepresented, with less than one percent of non-elected positions, compared to almost two percent of the population. Hispanic or Latinos and Native Americans actually showed higher representation on boards, authorities, and commissions than in the total Allegheny County population.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S NON-ELECTED AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS BY RACE

2003

(All data are only representative of those 43 boards who voluntarily responded) Note that percentages used in this chart have been rounded up where applicable.

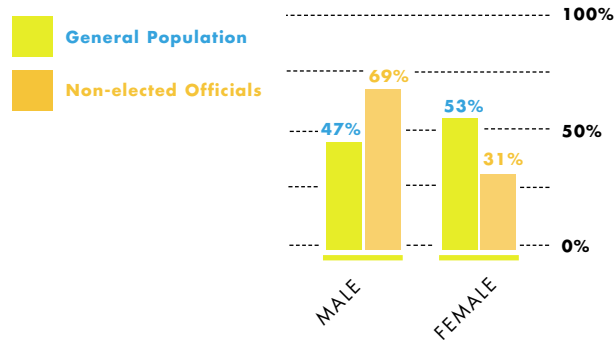


Gender

From the 2000 Census data, the majority of residents in Allegheny County are women: 53 percent of the county population is female, while men make up 47 percent. In the City of Pittsburgh's working adult population, the female majority is even larger: women make up 69 percent of the city's working adults.⁴

However, women are in the minority on Allegheny County's authorities, boards, and commissions. Women hold only 31 percent of the county's non-elected positions; men hold 69 percent of these spots.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, AND COMMISSIONS BY GENDER
2003



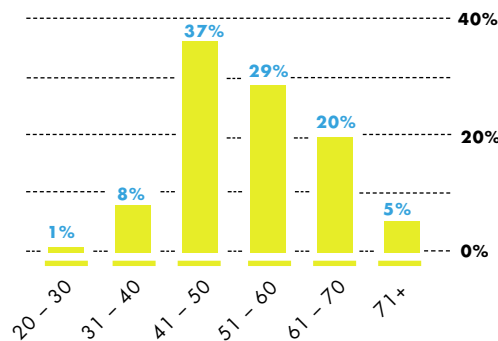
Age

Senior citizens (over the age of 65) account for nearly one in five residents of Allegheny County (18 percent); nationally, the percentage of senior citizens is only 12 percent. Recently, Allegheny County bypassed Miami-Dade County, Florida as the county with the largest percentage of senior citizens in the US.⁵

While the county's young population has been in decline for the past 20 years, young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 still make up

more than a quarter of the county's residents. In Allegheny County in 2002, young people (between the ages of 20 and 40) comprised 12 percent of elected officials, but only 8 percent of non-elected officials are between the ages of 20 and 40. Less than 1 percent of the positions we surveyed were held by people between the ages of 20 and 30. Older people are more proportionately represented, with 28 percent of non-elected aged 61 or older. In the total county population, 27 percent is over 55 and 18 percent over 65.⁶

ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, AND COMMISSIONS BY AGE
2003



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Proportionate to total county population, African-Americans are well represented in these important positions of power, much more so than in elected positions or on non-profit boards of directors. There is, however, still room for improvement, particularly regarding women and young people. Over the next four years, many of these positions will turn over and the

new County Executive will have the opportunity to select replacements for outgoing board members. He will have many occasions to correct the underrepresentation of women and young people. We hope that, four years from now, the group of individuals who are appointed to Allegheny County's boards, commissions and authorities more closely mirror

LIST OF BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, AND COMMISSIONS RESPONDING:

Acknowledgements:

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Please visit our website at www.newgenerations.info

Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee
Allegheny County Airport Authority
Allegheny County Board of Health
Allegheny County Housing Authority
Allegheny County Sanitary Authority
Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc.
Allegheny Land Trust
Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
Authority for Improvements in Municipalities
Carnegie Library Board
Children, Youth, & Families Advisory Committee
Community College of Allegheny County Board
Community Services Advisory Council
Conservation District Board
Cooperative Extension Board
Drug and Alcohol Planning Council
Elections Board
Emergency Medical Service Institute Board
Finance and Development Commission
Firemen's Advisory Board
Higher Education Building Authority

Hospital Development Authority
Industrial Development Authority
Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors
Kane Foundation
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board
Parks and Recreation Committee
Personnel Board
Plumbing Advisory Board
Port Authority of Allegheny County Board
Professional Services Review Committee
Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
Regional Asset District Board
Residential Finance Authority
Retirement Board
Section 202 Board
Sports and Exhibition Authority
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Southwestern Pennsylvania Convention Center Design Commission
Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board
Vacant Property Review Committee

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END NOTES

¹ Ralph Bangs and Monique Constance-Huggins, "Diversity Within and Among Nonprofit Boards in Allegheny County," University Center for Social and Urban Research, October 2003; Kate Trimble, "Young People in Politics: Age Diversity in Allegheny County's Elected Officials, 2002," Then New Generations Program, April 2003.

² All data represents members of boards, authorities, and commissions

up until the end of February 2004 and does not account for new appointments made after this date.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, Available on-line at <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>, 2000.

⁴ Paul R. Flora, "Pittsburgh Women Close Labor Force Gap," Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly, Issue 8 (2003), pp.1-2. Available on-line at <http://www.pitt.edu/~peq/PEQ%20Flora%20summer%202003.pdf>.

⁵ Allegheny Conference on Community Development Task Force on Young People Subcommittee on Engagement and Connectedness. Available on-line at www.accdpel.org/reports/Engage.doc.

⁶ Available census data does not align precisely to the ages groups used in this report. Therefore, the exact proportion of the general population in the 20-40 and 55 and over categories were not available.