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# NOW NEWS

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NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

FALL 2017

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## Elaine Marshall to keynote NC NOW Conference

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall will keynote the North Carolina NOW state conference this year. She has long been an advocate for women and their families.

As an attorney she represented women who had been subjected to domestic violence. In 1992 she was elected to the N. C. Senate, where she was a strong voice for health care in North Carolina especially in rural areas.

In 1996, Secretary Marshall made history by becoming the first woman to be elected to a statewide executive office, defeating NASCAR legend Richard Petty. She has been re-elected six times.

Secretary Marshall was the Democratic nominee for U. S. Senate in 2010, but lost to incumbent Senator Richard Burr.

She has excelled as a legislator and as secretary of state. The *Raleigh News and Observer* named her Rookie of the Year and listed her among Legislators to Watch.

As Secretary of State, she has a strong record of protecting consumers, investors, and charitable giv-

ers against securities fraud and financial scams. Combating financial fraud has led to the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars from major Wall Street banks for North Carolina investors and charities.

A leader in ethics re-



Elaine Marshall

forms, Secretary Marshall has taken on lobbyists. She also is a leader in cutting red tape and using technology to allow North Carolina businesses to create more jobs by cutting the expense of doing business in our state.

In spite of her long record of excellence and achievement, Secretary Marshall has become the object of a right-wing witch hunt. Rep. Chris Millis went to the press and alleged that Secretary Marshall had illegally commissioned

notaries who were not citizens. The Secretary of State's office explained that citizenship was not a requirement to be a notary and that all federal laws and guidelines were being followed in commissioning notaries.

In late June, Rep. Chris Millis, in a shocking move, introduced a resolution to form a special legislative committee to investigate whether or not to recommend that Secretary Marshall be impeached. There was a vote in a committee along party lines to form a special committee to investigate the allegations.

Meanwhile, Rep. Millis has resigned from the legislature explaining that he wants to spend more time with his family. We can only hope that this groundless witch hunt will be quickly resolved in his absence.



# DeVos vows to revoke and replace campus sexual assault guidelines

In 2011 the U. S. Department of Education issued some guidelines to colleges and universities requiring them to handle rape allegations swiftly and fairly. The problem was being taken seriously at last.

Now in 2017, Betsy DeVos claims that these guidelines have “weaponized the Office of Civil Rights.” Specifically, she maintains that enforcing women’s civil rights under Title IX is unfair to accused rapists. Her own acting head of Education’s civil rights office told the New York Times that “90 percent” of campus rapes “fall into the category of ‘we were both drunk’.” Of course, being drunk is no excuse if you injure or kill someone with your car.

We are going back to the Dark Ages when campus rape was dismissed as not a real problem and when women who reported being raped were accused of lying. Even though numerous studies consistently show two things: (1) that an overwhelming majority of rapes are never reported and (2) that false rape accusations are rare, our new Secretary of Education believes that the biggest problem is that young men accused of rape are being held to a standard that is too high.

Campus investigations of rape charges are not criminal proceedings. They are more like being fired from a job for sexual harassment. In a criminal trial guilt must be established “beyond a reasonable doubt,” a standard tilted toward the accused to prevent false convictions. But the 2011 federal guidelines require that the standard be a more neutral “preponderance of the evidence,” a legal standard for non-criminal cases.

Discipline can range from restricting the activities of the accused to suspension

accused is not entitled to legal representation or to the due process accorded to someone on trial for a criminal act, just as an employee can be dismissed for sexual harassment without legal representation or legal due process.

Campuses do have a difficult task. They must have a procedure that both protects the victim and is fair to the accused. Given what Secretary DeVos and her subordinate have said on the record, fears that victim protections will be rolled back are well founded.

## NC NOW at Forefront of ERA Campaign

The ERA Campaign Plan for 2018-2019 will debut at this year’s NC NOW state conference. Participants will receive the latest updates on the remarkable developments in the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) movement at the national and state levels. Training will include information on structure, strategy, legislative processes, action team activities, and a new initiative, Campus 4 ERA. The workshop session will also include an overview of NOW’s National Action Plan for the ERA.

We extend our sincere thanks to our state legislative champions of the ERA in 2015 and 2017, primary sponsors Senator Floyd McKissick and Representative Carla Cunningham. We look forward to their continued support as we expect that the ratification bills that were not heard in committee in 2017 will be re-introduced in the long session in 2019.

Donating your time and financial support to NC NOW will empower us to support ERA efforts. For more information, visit [www.nc4era.org](http://www.nc4era.org) ; to support the ERA and NC NOW’s work, <https://northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/donate-now>.

# NC NOW 2017 State Conference and Elections

## Mobilizing Women NOW

Saturday, October 21, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Haymount United Methodist Church  
1700 Fort Bragg Rd., Fayetteville, NC

### Registration—8:30-9:00 a.m.

The conference registration fee includes lunch.

Registration for non-NOW members is \$40. You can join/rejoin NOW at the conference.

Student registration is \$10 (student ID required).

Registration for NOW members is a sliding scale from \$10-\$40 (\$10 covers the meal).

Please preregister using the form below or register on-line in Eventbrite through [northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/conferences/](http://northcarolinanow.wordpress.com/conferences/) Hotel, ad forms and tabling forms are on the web-site.

You may also register on-site the day of the conference, but lunch is guaranteed only for those who preregister or call requesting a lunch.

If you miss the mailing deadline, call Roberta Waddle at 910-624-6516 to preregister.

### Speakers/Workshops

Keynote: NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall; Special Guest: Sarah Preston, Executive Director of Lillian's List on Women Running for Office; Attorney Patricia Bradley from Fayetteville State University on Campus Rape/Title IX—We Could Lose Protections; ERA: What's happening in NC; Recent Legislative Action on Sexual Assault—Chapter Activism gets Results.

### Meal

A lunch (including a vegetarian option) will be served. If you have special dietary needs, contact Roberta Waddle at 910-624-6516.

### Special Needs/Directions

If you need directions or have any special needs, concerns, or questions about the conference, we will be happy to work with you. Call Judy Lowe at 910-273-0293.

### Hotel

Fairfield Inn by Marriott, 562 Cross Creek Mall, Fayetteville, NC. Call 910-487-1400 and ask to be put into the Lori Bunton group block. \$109+tax.

### 2017 NC NOW Conference Preregistration Form

Make checks payable to NC NOW and mail to:

NC NOW State Conference, c/o Roberta Waddle, 3941 Gainey Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28306

Mail by October 11, 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you are a member of North Carolina NOW
- North Carolina NOW Conference Registration fee \$40 (sliding scale from \$10 to \$40 for NC NOW members only).
- Special student registration \$10
- Conference registration for non-NOW members \$40
- I can't attend, but here's my contribution to help with costs.
- Check Enclosed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Or Charge your Visa or Master Card (Please circle one)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# NC NOW

North Carolina National Organization for Women  
P.O. Box 24995  
Raleigh, NC 27611

Non-Profit Org.  
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**Call to Conference  
Oct. 21, 2017  
"Mobilizing Women NOW"**



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

***Count me in! I want to join NOW and commit myself to take action: to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities in a truly equal partnership with men.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Former/Returning member, different name? \_\_\_\_\_)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* (Important!) E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to affiliate\* with my local NOW chapter. (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Affiliation with a chapter assures that you will receive local newsletters and special notices.)

Annual Dues: \$35 (\$15-\$34 -- student / limited income.

*NOW does not wish to exclude members because of income.)*

(Annual dues include membership in NOW, at the National, State and local Chapter levels)

I want to make a donation to local NOW \_\_\_\_\_ or NC NOW \_\_\_\_\_ (check which)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and dues to: NC NOW, PO Box 24995, Raleigh, NC 27611