

Commissioner Brenda Howerton - BIO

Brenda Howerton is a Durham County Commissioner. She was first elected to the commission in November 2008 as the only African American woman on the Board and is now serving her third four-year term. From 2017-2018, she served as the President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC). This association advocates for county government before the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government. Howerton is the first Durham County Commissioner to be elected president of NCACC. Her tenure as president focused on the initiative announced on her installation night "*100 Counties Helping All Children Thrive.*"

As a member of the community, Commissioner Howerton has served as Vice Chair of the County Commissioners from 2012-2016. She also serves or has served on a number of local, state and national boards and commissions including:

- Durham Technical Community College, Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism Authority, Downtown Durham, Inc.
- Chair of the City/County Planning Committee, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Public Health Board
- Triangle J Council Center of the Region, Durham City-County Committee, Durham Partnership for Children
- Durham History Hub, Workforce Development Board, Co-Chair Transformation in Ten Education Task Force
- Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Stepping Up Initiative)
- Appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the Local Government Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees. (LGERS)
- Emerging Issues Blue Ribbon Commission for Early Childhood Financing
- National Association of Counties (NACo): Chair of Workforce Development Sub-Committee; Vice Chair of Nation Justice sub-committee; member of Large Urban Caucus; member of US Communities Cooperative Purchasing; member of Membership Sub-committee.

Commissioner Howerton has initiated many resolutions, including: Raise the Age, social justice framework, mental health, child welfare school construction/education, and many more.

Howerton came to the post of County Commissioner after a distinguished career. She served as a Human Relations Commissioner and served as an elected Soil and Water Supervisor in Durham County for six years. Prior to those positions, she served as the local NAACP Political Chair; Lead Community Organizer for Durham Congregations

Association and Neighborhoods; and served as a political aid for a Member of the NC House of Representatives.

Howerton received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management, Magna Cum Laude, from Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina. She earned a certification in Executive Coaching from North Carolina State University. She is the owner of The Howerton Consulting, Inc. that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries. Her interest in county government stems from her education and work background.

In addition to her business education, Howerton also earned certifications from two political leadership institutions. She was one of the first to complete the Advanced Leadership Corps offered by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Government, a course offered to municipal and county elected leaders each year. Commissioner Howerton completed the Local Leaders Academy (LELA). LELA is a partnership with the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the NC League of Municipalities that offers elected officials the knowledge and skills needed to lead and govern their communities.

Commissioner Howerton grew up on a farm in Caswell County and knows the nature of hard work. She moved to Durham in 1986, a member of Union Baptist Church, raised four children, two of whom graduated from Durham Public Schools. She loves being a grandmother to her three wonderful grandchildren.

As an African American woman, Howerton understands the social injustice issues deeply ingrained in the fabric of American society. The life experiences that drove her to get involved in politics then, drives her enthusiasm and passion to continue fight for the people that feel they don't have a voice today.

Howerton is the recipient of the Human Relations Commission Award for Commitment to Inclusion from the Durham Human Relations Commission and the Certification of Recognition Women in Government from GOVERNING Magazine: The Future of States and Localities.