

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-017

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GENDER BALANCE
POLICY FOR APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Legislature in recent years amended Section 69.16A of the Code of Iowa, extending the requirement for gender-balanced boards to all political subdivisions of the state, which includes the City of Washington; and


WHEREAS, to this end, the City wishes to adopt a uniform policy to comply with the requirements of new Section 69.16A(2):

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, IOWA:

Section 1. The City Council hereby adopts the Gender Balance Policy for Appointed Boards and Commission, attached as Exhibit A to this resolution.


Section 2. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of February, 2014.



Sandra Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Illa Earnest, City Clerk

*Brent Hinson, City Administrator
Sandra Johnson, Mayor
Illa Earnest, City Clerk
Kevin Olson, City Attorney*



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Gender Balance Policy for Appointed Boards & Commissions

Purpose

To provide for equal opportunities for males and females to participate on the various boards, commissions, and committees established by the City of Washington.

Definitions

Boards, Commissions, or Committees

Any standing committee with fixed appointed membership created with statutory authority existing in the Code of Iowa, the City of Washington Code of Ordinances, or by a resolution of the City Council.

Gender Balance

Equal distribution of appointed positions by gender for an even number of membership. For an odd-numbered membership, an equal distribution of positions, plus one of either gender.

Good Faith Effort

Advertisement of gender balance positions through local media sources and City of Washington communication sources, for a period of not less than three months, or until a qualified candidate or candidate of the current minority gender of a board or commission is identified, whichever is less.

Policy

The City of Washington shall follow Iowa Code Chapter 69.16A in regard to providing for gender-balanced boards and commissions.

A good faith effort shall be made to see that all appointed boards, commissions, or committees of the City of Washington are gender balanced. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to any board, commission, or committee established by the City of Washington if that appointment or reappointment would cause the number of members of the board, commission, or committee of one gender to be greater than one-half the membership of the board, commission, or committee plus one if the board, commission, or committee is composed of an odd number of members. If the board, commission, or committee is composed of an even number of members, not more than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender. If there are multiple appointing authorities for a

board, commission, or committee, the City shall consult the other members to ensure gender balance.

A good faith effort will be made in substantially the following form: The City of Washington's appointments run through June 30 of the year a particular term expires. In a time period no later than March 1 of each year, the Mayor shall determine which terms are scheduled to expire on the upcoming June 30. A notice in print and/or radio media sources will be placed listing the appointed positions available, the City's desire to achieve gender balance on its boards & commissions, and contact information for applying for vacancies by March 10 of each year. This notice should run on at least a twice-monthly basis in any selected media sources for the following three months, and will also be made continuously available on the City's website. If a qualified person of the current minority gender on a board or commission is identified as interested in being appointed to a position to be vacated, the Mayor may proceed to make this appointment at any time following the initial publication of the notice, or may opt to wait until the three-month period has lapsed. In the case in which the Mayor chooses to make the appointment prior to the end of the three-month period, the position filled will be omitted from further advertising.

If the City of Washington has made a good faith effort to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy on a board, commission, or committee in compliance with the preceding paragraph for a period of three months but has been unable to make a compliant appointment, an appointment may be made that does not provide for gender equity.