

# Kerry/Edwards Rally targets women voters

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The NC Women Rally for Kerry/Edwards was a combined effort of the Democratic campaign held Thursday, August 25 on the Bicentennial Plaza outside the N.C. Museum of History. According to the Hon. Elaine Marshall Secretary of State, the date marks the 19th amendment giving women in America the right to vote.

To the left of the Museum of History in downtown Raleigh, over one hundred square feet

of space was partitioned with entwined red, white, and blue ribbons. News stations, WRAL and WTVD were present

to cover the Kerry/Edwards rally and tables were set-up to register any unregistered voters. The podium was adorned with the North Carolina and the United States flags with the backdrop also being an American flag.

The songs "I'm Every Woman" by Chaka Chan and Aretha Franklin's "Respect" resounded on the Bicentennial Plaza as volunteers passed out Kerry/Edwards bumper stickers and handed out Kerry/Edwards campaign posters which read "A Stronger America" to the arriving women supporters. Hand-made posters that read "Kerry/Edwards Equality for All Woman" and another hand-made poster read "Strong women for a Stronger America" were being



Photo courtesy of www.wfmynew2.com

hoisted up and carried by other women. Before the women's rally began, approximately 200 women from all ages and economic status and cultural backgrounds white, black and Hispanic including several men and children had gath-

ered outside of the History Museum. Among the crowd assembled were local politicians, such as Mayor Charles Meeker and former City Council Member Brad Thompson. Some political figures like North Carolina Appellate Court Judge Linda McGee and Ambassador Wendy Sherman, Foreign Advisor for Democratic Candidate John Kerry, moved through the crowd greeted and shook hands with supporters.

President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina Carolyn B. Honeycutt spoke first at the Kerry/Edwards Rally. Honeycutt announced the Take Five program which is a program that is opening across the nation to help mobilize women age 45 and

under to vote in the 2004 elections.

Following Honeycutt, Byinna Warfield President of the Young Democrats



Photo courtesy of www.local.go.com

NC Women's Caucus, wearing a pink shirt that read, "A Woman's place is in the House," stated in the 2000 presidential election that 22 million unmarried women did not vote.

Featured speaker Ambassador Sherman told the crowd that if the women would vote the Kerry/Edwards ticket would win in North Carolina. In addition, Sherman stated that John Kerry and John Edward's were committed to working for equal pay for women

in America and that today in comparable jobs women are still being paid 73% of what men are paid.

Secretary of State

Marshall spoke of not forgetting the women. In North Carolina women make up 52% of the population and 40% of these women live in poverty and approximately 23% of the women in North Carolina make-up the government officials in the State Capitol. The statistical information drew a rallying cry from the crowd of standing women supporters for the Kerry/Edward ticket.

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