

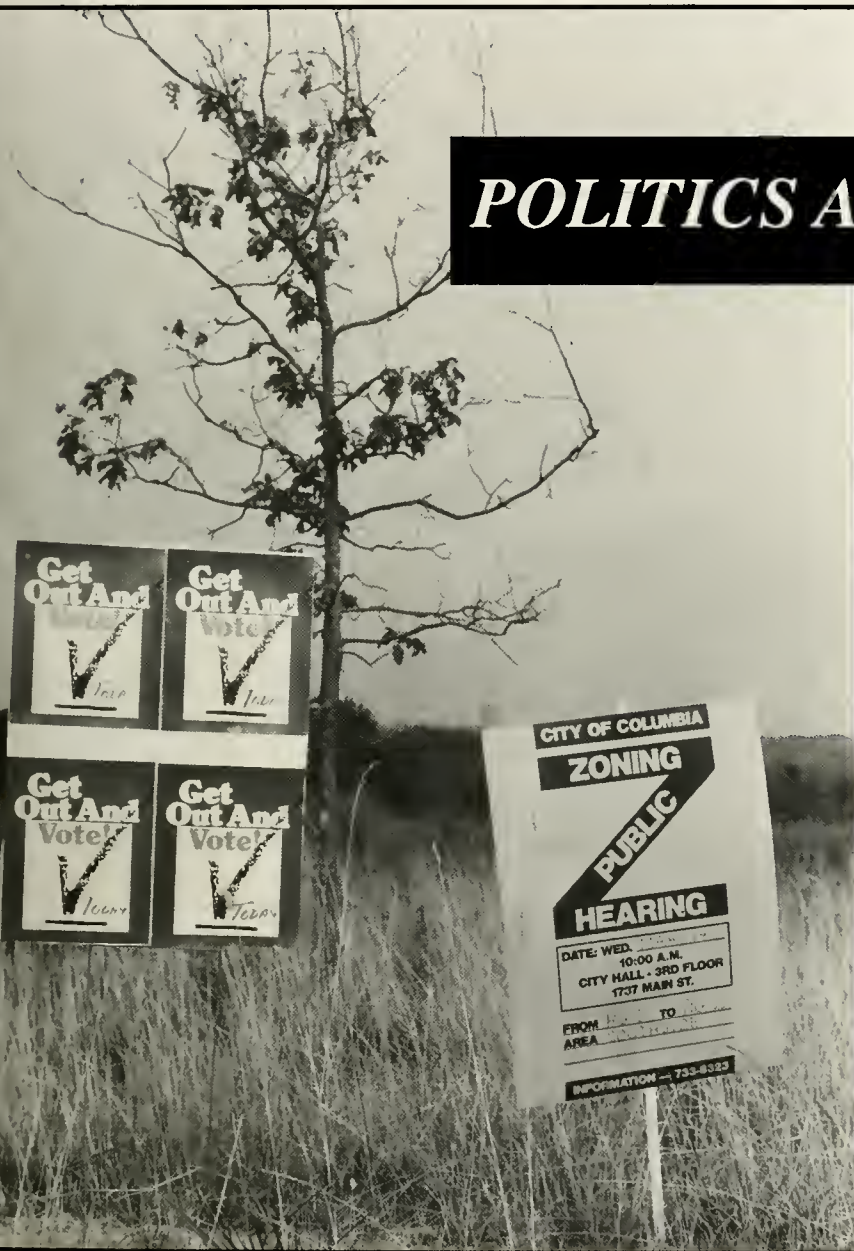
# Carolina Planning

Vol. 16, No. 1  
Spring 1990

## ***POLITICS AND PLANNING***

*Inside:*

- An Interview with Harvey Gantt
- Politics and Planning In North Carolina
- Building Consensus
- The Politics of Planning a Growth Management System
- Fear and Loathing in The Planning Profession
- Planners as Leaders





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# Carolina Planning

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Department of City and Regional Planning

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## Editor's Note

Planners by profession are inextricably linked to the political process. But how can practicing planners effectively manage the vagaries of that process and the at-times differing agenda of the elected body? In this issue *Carolina Planning* takes a broad look at politics and planning and the role of the planner.

We begin with an interview of **Harvey Gantt**, 1990 Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate. A politician-planner-architect, Gantt suggests that "Planners need to remain objective in a highly charged political environment." **Lanier Blum** "questions the goal of being objective," in our *Perspectives* section, and argues that "ambivalence about the proper professional role of the planner diminishes power." According to Blum, vision is an indispensable form of leadership; and planners help create and develop a community's vision. **Robert C. Hinshaw** emphasizes that breadth of vision, as well as a generalist background, are the hallmarks of planners in this age of specialization.

**Mary Joan Manley Pugh**, former assistant secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, asserts that planners are less effective if they are not leaders. She defines leadership in the profession and provides a simple methodology for activating latent leadership qualities in planners. Moreover, **Charles G. Pattison** believes that planners are ineffective if they do not integrate planning and the political process.

**John M. DeGrove** illustrates the importance of integrating politics and planning in his article entitled "The Politics of Planning a Growth Management System." Bipartisan political support, strong gubernatorial leadership, sustained citizen support, and new governance arrangements are among the key ingredients for a successful growth management system. **Robert G. Paterson** describes an example of new governance arrangements at the regional and local level in his article on the merger of the Durham City and County planning departments. **Paul Norby**, planning director of the new Durham City-County Planning Department, comments on the successes and failures of the process selected for merging the planning functions.

The underlying themes of this issue stress the necessity for leadership ability and effective communication skills in the planning profession. **Andy Sachs**, coordinator of the Public Disputes Program at the Orange County Dispute Settlement Center, provides guidelines on how planners and planning departments can sharpen their conflict resolution skills and develop an effective consensus-building capacity. **Bill Holman** charges environmentalists and planners to "forge coalitions" to lobby the NC General Assembly to pass more statewide planning legislation. Also, **Norma Burns** emphasizes the importance of consensus-building among elected officials and members of the design and development community.

Picking up on the theme of "progressiveness" established in the interview with Gantt, **Pierre Clavel** defines a "progressive" city and provides a useful frame of reference for this much-used term. Clavel, like Gantt, describes the importance of bringing "profoundly opposing forces together to the bargaining table."

Communication, leadership, and negotiating skills are indispensable if a planner is to effectively implement plans and solutions in a political system. We hope these articles are provocative and instructive; we welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Trina Gauld*

**Carolina Planning** welcomes comments and suggestions on the articles published. We are currently accepting articles for our Spring 1991 issue. For more information about submissions, address correspondence to: **Carolina Planning**, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Campus Box # 3140, New East Building, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3140.

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