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Mary Klenz, - Bio
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Mary Klenz joined the League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg in 1991. She is currently Co-president of the North Carolina League of Women Voters and has served as President of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League (1997-2001) and First VP (1993-97)

She Chaired the statewide grassroots campaign to repeal the state food tax from beginning to the time when the state legislature repealed the final portion of the state tax. During that campaign Mary traveled from across the state to meet with local advocates and members of the media, organize efforts to have people to send their grocery receipts to state legislators and talk with individuals and groups about a more fair tax system for North Carolina. The campaign ended when legislators repealed this unfair tax.

While she served as president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League she helped develop and coordinated Civics 101; a program on local government which received an award from the national League of Women Voters. She organized a court watch in Mecklenburg County Superior Court, coordinated televised candidate debates for City Council, County Commission, School Board and NC House and Senate candidates. She also represented the League in advocating for fairness, equity and integration of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School. In the past she has served on the Mecklenburg County Commission Education Futures Commission, the Judicial District 26 Strategic Planning Task Force and the WTVI Ready to Learn Community Advisory Board.

Mary has been the recipient of the 2003 Virginia Shadd Community Service Award, 2002 Woman of Purpose Award, 2001 Women's Hall of Fame Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women and the Museum of the New South, recognized by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for the 2001 Women & Leadership in North Carolina, the 2000 NAACP Distinguished Community Service Award, Susan B. Anthony Award for Community Service (1997), UNC-Charlotte Woman of the Year Award (1996).

She is the founder and owner of Klenz Insurance Agency since 1979. She has an MA in Sociology (1993) and a BA in Business (1978) from UNC-Charlotte. Mary has been a member of the Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society and Economics Honor Society. She received recognition as a Charlotte Observer "Heroes of Democracy" (1996). She is married for 40 years to husband Bill and has two adult children, Brad and Beth. She has been a Charlotte resident since 1973.