

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

# Official Statement

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**FROM:** Teresa Younger, Executive Director

**DATE:** Nov. 6, 2013

**RE:** Municipal Election Results

This election was remarkable on many levels. First, three towns – Derby, Norwich and New Haven – elected their first-ever female mayor. Second, we have ethnic diversity, with the first African-American woman to lead New Haven in its 375-year history. Third, we have a wide age range, from a woman under 30 to more seasoned leaders winning re-election. Local political offices are often springboards to statewide leadership, and the diversity of this election more closely resembles the face of the state. And while we're still nowhere near political parity (in which women would ideally hold half of all elected seats) this new group of elected officials moves us a little bit closer in that direction.

*About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state's women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women's issues.*