

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

News Release

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PCSW Releases ConnGAP Report on Political Parity for Women

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HARTFORD -- During his gubernatorial campaign, Gov. Dannel Malloy voluntarily signed a pledge to make his best effort to name women to 50% of about 75 identified high-level, paid appointments within his administration. In July of 2010, through the Connecticut Government Appointments Project (ConnGAP), an initiative of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), all three candidates running for governor at the time signed the pledge, which was aimed at moving Connecticut's Executive Branch closer to gender parity.

However, as of Nov. 1 of this year, 34.4% of those positions identified by ConnGAP were filled by women. This number is approximately 3% fewer than during the Rell Administration.

PCSW also took a preliminary, broader look at the number of women serving in highly paid gubernatorial appointed positions throughout the Executive Branch. Gender representation here is: 32% female for Executive Branch agency heads and 38% female for Executive Branch agency deputy positions.

To be sure, Malloy has appointed (or reappointed) several women to lead State agencies, including: Dr. Jewell Mullen, Dept. of Public Health; Judge Joette Katz, Dept. of Children and Families; Catherine Smith, Dept. of Economic Development; Melody Currey, Dept. of Motor Vehicles; Linda Roberts, Connecticut Siting Council; Elin Katz, Office of Consumer Counsel; Jane Ciarleglio, Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education; Victoria Veltri, Office of Healthcare Advocate; Patricia Rehmer, Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and Linda Schwartz, Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Both Jewell Mullen and Joette Katz came to the Governor's attention through ConnGAP.

The Governor is to be commended for appointing several of these women to head up agencies considered "non-traditional" for a woman to lead.

While ConnGAP looks at the overall numbers of women appointed (or reappointed) to top leadership positions within the Executive Branch, such as commissioner and executive director, and did not presume to recommend people for Malloy's inner circle of top advisors, the report points out that four of the Governor's five top administrative staff members are male. (Resignations among these top advisory positions, announced publically recently, may eventually change this number.)

Lack of access to qualified candidates is the reason most often cited when gender inequity in paid appointments is brought to light and questioned. However, through the ConnGAP project, whose intent was to widen the available pool of talent, experience and leadership perspective available, the PCSW presented the Governor with a binder full of the resumes of more than 60 highly qualified, executive-level women willing to serve. These women were chosen from a much larger candidate pool and vetted by an Executive Search Committee, working with a non-partisan advisory coalition of more than 80 organizations.

“Diversifying the ranks of leadership brings a wider range of experiences to the table when key policy decisions are being made,” said Teresa C. Younger, PCSW executive director. “Studies have shown that having a critical mass of women in a decision-making body – whether it is a corporation or a government – helps turn the curve on systemic change needed to address issues affecting women and families. Finding the best candidate sometimes means going outside traditional or familiar circles, and our hope in providing the Governor’s office with a pool of women with the experience, talent and commitment to lead State agencies was that he would use this as an opportunity to diversify the ranks of the Executive Branch. We will continue to work with the Governor and will monitor the policies that come out of his administration as they affect women. It’s our belief that the people who lead State agencies should more accurately reflect the make-up of those they serve, 51% of whom are women.”

Links to:

[ConnGAP Executive Search Committee](#)

[ConnGAP Coalition](#)

[Positions Identified by ConnGAP](#) (N.B. Some have changed because of agency consolidations.)

*About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a 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.*