



Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

STATE HOUSE

ROOM 460

BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02133

617 722 2266

Winter 2013

Senator Candaras and Representative Balser to Lead Caucus



[R-L] Representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Co-Chair Representative Ruth Balser (D-Newton), Co-Chair Senator Gale Candaras (D-Wilbraham), and Bethany Stevens, Deputy Chief Appeals & Training Bureau in the Middlesex DA's Office attend Caucus' Bills Co-sponsorship event.

In January, Senator Gale Candaras (D-Wilbraham) and Representative Ruth Balser (D-Newton) succeeded Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) as Caucus Co-Chairs for the new legislative session.

Representative Balser has served in the House of Representatives since 1999. She is the first psychologist to serve in the Massachusetts Legislature, and she reflects her interest and expertise in healthcare issues by serving on the Joint Committee of Elder Affairs, the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the Joint Committee on Public Health.

Senator Candaras has served in the Massachusetts legislature since 1997, first as a representative before her election to the Senate in 2007. Her background in law and finance has served her well as Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, as well as in her appointments on many other committees. She also shares an interest with Representative Balser in healthcare.

The new Co-Chairs kicked off the legislative session by hosting a Bills Co-Sponsorship event in late January and the Caucus Annual Meeting in early February.

The Bills Co-Sponsorship event drew a large crowd of legislators, staff, and advocates into Room 460 where long tables were provided for the display of bills and fact sheets. Caucus members were invited to share three bills and several legislators took the opportunity to speak about legislation on topics ranging from domestic violence and comparable work to gender neutrality in insurance.

The Annual Meeting began with an address from Senate

President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth), who reviewed what had been accomplished during the last legislative session and discussed continuing oversight on agencies throughout the Commonwealth, finding balances with gun control, and drinking and wastewater issues. She also discussed the importance of keeping the focus on economic drivers such as healthcare and tourism and fighting for struggling industries like fishing and agriculture. The new Co-Chairs then started their term with an overview of the Caucus' bylaws, specifically the purpose, which is to enhance the economic status and equality of women and encourage and to support women in all levels of government. Two themes emerged after a lively discussion with Caucus members: pay equity and professional development.

To meet these themes, the Caucus agreed to sponsor events focusing on pay equity, invite spokespersons on both sides of the pay equity issue so that their colleagues and the public would be privy to all viewpoints, and become educated and conversant on the topic. Caucus members suggested ideas like tracking a day in the life of an average female, securing visits from both members of big corporations in the private sector and public figures such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, and ensuring as much publicity as possible for these issues and events to spark interest in the general population of Massachusetts.

The Co-Chairs also suggested a new Task Force to promote their second goal of professional development that will include topics such as mentoring and encouraging women to run for public office. Members were invited to join the Women in Prison Task Force that has been chaired by Representative Kay Khan (D-Newton).

In addition, the Co-Chairs expressed an interest in becoming closer to women's groups and organizations throughout the Commonwealth, such as the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, in order to better focus on issues and achieve more permanent and prominent results.



[R-L] Representative Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough), Senator Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Representative Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston), and Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow) attend the Annual Caucus Meeting.

The Caucus Welcomes Seven Members



Senator
Joan Lovely
2nd Essex

Senator Joan Lovely (D-Salem) was elected to succeed Senate Majority Leader Frederick E. Berry (D-Peabody). She grew up in Beverly and attended Salem State University where she received a B.S. in Political Science, and later attended the Massachusetts School of Law where she received a J.D. She is an attorney at Lovely & Lovely. She served on the Salem City Council from 1998-2012, served as Council President in 2001 and 2012, and participated in many committees of the Council. She was a legislative aide to former Representative J. Michael Ruane (D-Salem). In addition, she volunteered for many years as a literacy buddy for children in grades one through four in the Salem public schools.



Senator
Kathleen O'Connor Ives
1st Essex

Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives (D-Newburyport) was elected to succeed Senator Steven Baddour (D-Methuen). An attorney at law, she attended Mount Holyoke College, graduating with a B.A. in International Relations, and Pace University Law School, graduating with a J.D. She served on the Newburyport City Council from 2008 until 2013 and worked as Deputy Campaign Manager for Steve Grossman for Governor. In the past, she has been employed with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and with the Al Gore Presidential Campaign. She is proficient in Brazilian Portuguese.



Representative
Claire Cronin
11th Plymouth

Representative Claire D. Cronin (D-Easton) was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the 11th Plymouth District, which includes both Brockton and Easton, on November 6, 2012. She is a graduate of Stonehill College and Suffolk University Law School. Cronin is admitted to the Massachusetts bar and admitted to practice in U.S. District Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to being elected, Representative Cronin maintained a law practice in Brockton, Massachusetts. She has been affiliated with Commonwealth Mediation and Conciliation in Brockton for the past ten years, where she has arbitrated and mediated cases involving a wide range of issues, including most notably the landmark settlement of the Massachusetts clergy sexual abuse cases. Representative Cronin served on the board of Old Colony YMCA in Brockton and was also a member of the Foundation for Excellence in Education in Easton (FEEE), a non-profit organization that supports the students of the Easton Public Schools by raising funds for state-of-the art technology and innovative grants. Formerly a member of the Brockton Democratic City Committee, Representative Cronin currently serves on the Easton Democratic Town Committee and Democratic State Committee.



Representative
Marjorie Decker
25th Middlesex

Representative Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge) was elected to succeed the retiring Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge). She grew up in Cambridge and attended both UMass Amherst and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Before her election she served as an aide to both Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst) and Representative Alice Wolf, and has been a member of the Cambridge City Council since 1999. She is a member of the United Nations International Association of Peace Messenger Cites board and the Academy of Women Achievers.



Representative
Mary Keefe
15th Worcester

Representative Mary Keefe (D-Worcester) was elected to succeed Representative Vincent Pedone (D-Worcester). She is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art. She served as the Director of the Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center for over a decade. She is an original member of Women Together/Mujeres Unidas and a founding member of the Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts and the Worcester Community Labor Coalition. Her strong commitment to public place, community organizing and the arts in education is reflected in her association with the Green Hill Park Coalition, Worcester Interfaith, and Worcester Art Museum.

The Caucus Welcomes Seven Members



Representative
Diana DiZoglio
14th Essex

Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) was elected to succeed Representative David Torrissi (D-North Andover). She grew up in Methuen and attended both Middlesex Community College and Wellesley College, graduating with a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish. She was an aide to Representative Paul Adams (R-Andover), and went on to become the Chief of Staff of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts. In the months leading up to her run for State Representative she also worked as a Campaign Manager for the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics at the National Association of Government Employees. She is the owner of a small business called Glow Green Cleaning, but has put the business on hold to be a full-time legislator. She is fluent in Spanish, and has served in various capacities for multiple community outreach organizations including Girls Inc., and the United Teen Equality Center.



Representative
Danielle Gregoire
4th Middlesex

Representative Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough) was elected to represent the 4th Middlesex district, which includes portions of the city of Marlborough and the towns of Northborough and Westborough. She grew up in Marlborough and received a B.S. in Criminal Justice from St. Anselm College and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School. She served a term as a state representative from 2009 to 2010, when she served on Joint Committees on the Judiciary, Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. She had also served as an aide to former Representative Stephen LeDuc (D-Marlborough). She is involved in multiple organizations in her hometown, including the Marlborough Lions Club and Marlborough Democratic City Committee.

Representative Marty Walz Joins Planned Parenthood



Representative Marty Walz (D-Boston) resigned from the House of Representatives to become the president and CEO of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. “While I will miss serving in the House of Representatives, I could not pass up this opportunity. The debates heard during the passage of the Affordable Care Act and throughout last year’s elections make it clear that we must never take for granted a woman’s right to make personal medical decisions. I look forward to protecting that right and ensuring

that all women have the healthcare they need and deserve,” she said in a statement to State House News Service.

Representative Walz has represented the 8th Suffolk District in the House since 2005, and last session served as Assistant Vice Chairwoman of the House Ways and Means Committee. In addition, she was the House Chair of the Joint Committee on

Education during the 2009-10 legislative session and a member of the Federal Stimulus Oversight Committee. Among her many legislative accomplishments, she was the lead sponsor of a bill that created a 35 foot buffer zone to protect the safety and privacy of patients visiting family planning clinics in Massachusetts in 2007, and developed one of the nation’s most comprehensive anti-bullying laws in 2010 following the well-publicized suicide of South Hadley teenager Phoebe Prince.

In addition to her work in the State House, Representative Walz serves as an adjunct professor in the Communication Studies Department of Emerson College and the Political Science Department of Northeastern University. She is also a member of the Early Education and Care Council, which helps advise the Department of Early Education and Care on how to achieve its goals of early education and after-school services for families, the Charles River Water Quality Commission, and many other community and statewide organizations.

Representative Walz holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, a J.D. from New York University School of Law, and a B.A. from Colgate University.

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

**Massachusetts Caucus
of Women Legislators**
Established in 1975

Women Leading the Way

2013 Co-Chairs

Senator Gale D. Candaras
Representative Ruth B. Balsler

Treasurer

Carolyn C. Dykema

Executive Director

Joanne Muti

Members of the Senate

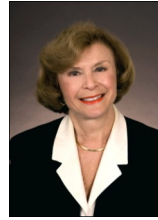
Gale D. Candaras
Harriette L. Chandler
Sonia R. Chang-Diaz
Katherine M. Clark
Cynthia Stone Creem
Eileen M. Donoghue
Jennifer L. Flanagan
Kathleen O'Connor Ives
Patricia D. Jehlen
Joan B. Lovely
Therese Murray
Karen E. Spilka

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Jennifer E. Benson
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Sheila C. Harrington
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Kay S. Khan
Elizabeth A. Malia
Rhonda L. Nyman
Shaunna L. O'Connell
Keiko M. Orrall
Sarah K. Peake
Alice Hanlon Peisch
Elizabeth A. Poirier
Denise Provost
Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Ellen Story



Senate President Therese Murray



Senator Harriette Chandler



Senator Karen Spilka

2013 will continue to be a strong year for women in politics in Massachusetts. Several members of the Caucus will hold key leadership positions in the Legislature. Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) reshuffled her senior leadership team, appointing Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester) to Assistant Majority Leader and Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) to Majority Whip.

“Senators Chandler and Spilka are experienced public servants who are committed to representing the priorities of their communities and the Commonwealth in the Senate,” Senate President Murray stated. “I am confident that they will serve as valuable members of our leadership team and continue the same level of hard work and dedication in their new roles.”

Senate President Therese Murray is herself the first female Senate President in Massachusetts and one of only six female Senate Presidents nationwide. She has served as Senate President since 2007.

In addition to the new appointments in the Senate, several members of the Caucus in the House of Representatives retained their previous leadership positions. House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop) reappointed Representative Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset) as Speaker Pro Tempore, and Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere) as Second Assistant Majority Leader. Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst) continues her role as Floor Division Chair.

House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) reappointed Representative Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleborough) to serve a third term as Assistant House Minority Whip. “Serving as Assistant Minority Whip is an honor and a job I take very seriously,” Rep. Poirier said in response to her reappointment.



Representative
Patricia Haddad



Representative
Kathi-Anne Reinstein



Representative
Ellen Story



Representative
Elizabeth Poirier

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