



WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



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Annual Report 2025

Commissioners

Chantel Bethea, Chair, (Worcester), Amanda Molina Dumas, Vice Chair, (Millbury), Cathleen Liberty, Clerk, (Worcester), Mary Delaney (Gardner), Kayanna James (Worcester), Carlee Mills (Gardner), Michelle Quinones (Worcester), Marcia Chong Rosado (Milford), Amber Vayo (Berlin)

Regional Area

The Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women represents all towns and cities in Worcester County including: Ashburnham, Athol, Auburn, Barre, Blackstone, Bolton, Boylston, Brookfield, Charlton, Clinton, Dana, Douglas, Dudley, Fitchburg, Gardner, Grafton, Greenwich, Hardwick, Harvard, Holden, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leicester, Leominster, Lunenburg, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, New Braintree, Northboro, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oakham, Oxford, Paxton, Petersham, Phillipston, Prescott, Princeton, Shrewsbury, Southboro, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sutton, Templeton, Upton, Uxbridge, Warren, Webster, Westboro, West Boylston, West Brookfield, Westminster, Winchendon, Worcester.

Mission

The mission of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is to advance women toward full equality in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for all women. The Commission exists to provide a permanent, effective voice for women and girls across Massachusetts, and represents fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all throughout their lives.



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The mission of the Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women (WCCSW) is to act as a permanent centralizing force and effective voice for women and girls in Worcester County, to ensure the equal status of women of every race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, national origin, ability, age and sexual orientation in educational, economic, political, health, legal, and social spheres including the provision of information, referrals, and guidance.

Advocacy

Members from the Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women attended Advocacy Day 2025 at the State House on March 24, 2025, where we met with our local representatives and their legislative staff to advocate for both the legislative priorities of the State Commission, as well as our regional priorities, which included the I AM BILL, An Act Relative to Healthy Youth, and An Act Promoting and Enhancing the Sustainability of Birth Centers and the Midwifery Workforce. Follow-up from Advocacy Day has included providing additional information and materials to legislators and their staff via email.

Programming

The Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women held a public hearing on November 21, 2024 at the Worcester Youth Center, however no one from the public attended the hearing. In the future, we will strive to better publicize our public hearings to encourage attendance.

Goals for the next fiscal year

- Hold our annual Legislative Breakfast, tentatively scheduled for September 2025.
- Collaborate with the Massachusetts CSW and Regional Commissions to hold more public hearings in order to raise awareness of critical issues facing women in Massachusetts, and to grow the participation and involvement of individual and



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organizational allies in the work of advancing equity for the women and girls of Massachusetts.

- Maintain regular contact with our legislators and officials on issues that concern women that have been identified as our priority areas of focus.
- Continue to collaborate with other organizations, and public officials, in order to support women and girls through public awareness.
- Work closely with our sister Commissions on implementing and developing best practices for the betterment of each Commission.
- Work on writing and proposing new state level legislative policies for women.
- Attend community events and share literature about the Commission to promote awareness of our role and work to increase involvement in our activities.

Submitted by Amanda Molina Dumas, Vice Chair, on May 21, 2025.