The 2017 elections saw a slight decline in female representation in the Connecticut General Assembly, but a dramatic increase in the percentage of female Mayors/First Selectmen in Hartford County. In 2018 a wave of women candidates is expected, as more women express interest in local and statewide office.

**Political Representation**

**Hartford County**

16%

- Hartford County Delegates
  - Total Seats 49
  - Females in CT Senate
  - Females in the CT House of Representatives
  - Males in the CT General Assembly

**Connecticut**

28%

- Female representation in the Connecticut General Assembly

**New England Females in Statewide Office**

- Massachusetts 25%
- Rhode Island 31%
- Connecticut 28%
- Maine 34%
- New Hampshire 30%
- Vermont 39%

**Maine 34%**

**Rhode Island 31%**

**Connecticut 28%**

**Massachusetts 25%**

**New Hampshire 30%**

**Vermont 39%**
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

There is a relationship between financial performance and companies who have more women board members. Companies with more women (3 or more women board members over 4 years) outperform those with fewer women by 84% on return on sales, 60% on return on investment capital, and 46% return on equity.

Female-founded companies perform 63% better than all-male firms. Female founders are “the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurs,” but they receive less than 3% of venture capital funding.

National initiatives such as the Paradigm for Parity aim to achieve “full gender parity by 2030” and have “at least 30% of senior roles” held by women in the near term. Of the 60 companies that have signed on, 3 are in Connecticut: UTC, Frontier Communications, and Synchrony Financial.

Female Business Executives

27% Female executives at Fortune 500 companies in Hartford County

- 5 Fortune 500 Companies in Hartford County
- 0 Female CEOs at Fortune 500 Companies in Hartford County
- 20 Female Executives at Fortune 500 Companies in Hartford County
- 29% Female board members at Fortune 500 Companies in Hartford County

There are 113,100 women-owned businesses in Connecticut that employ 95,300 people and contribute $16.4 billion to the state’s GDP. Women-owned businesses contributed 6.3% to the Connecticut economy.

33% of all firms in Hartford County are women-owned

- Asian American 5%
- African American 9%
- Latina 11%
- Caucasian 75%

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