



## ECCSW Hosts National Conference

### Conference Recap

7/26/2017

The ECCSW hosted the Annual National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Conference and Empowerment Summit in Buffalo, Wednesday, July 12, - Saturday July 15th. The conference addressed a wide range of issues facing women across the country. We are so proud of the local women who came out to both attend and speak at the conference. Erie County is home to a wealth of talented, powerful, and inspirational women—it was an honor to be represented by these phenomenal women. We would also like to thank NYS Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and former Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Evelyn Murphy for speaking at our Friday lunch session.



ECCSW Executive Director Karen King with former Massachusetts Lt. Governor Evelyn Murphy, lunch keynote speaker and founder of the WAGE Project

The Girls Empowerment Summit, which focused on social, economic and political empowerment, was a great success! Many local girls turned out to learn about the value of healthy decision making, to hear from local women entrepreneurs, and lastly, to learn about the value of civic and political engagement from Melina Camicelli, former mayor of Auburn New York, and the lead organizer of a new initiative the ECCSW is collaborating on, *First Amendment, First Vote*—along with a coalition of organizations from Central and WNY. The program will focus on political and civic engagement targeting high school girls, grades 9-12, preparing them to vote in their first election and to develop skills to run for political office starting in high school and beyond. In addition, Amanda Nguyen, Founder and President of Rise, also spoke at the Summit about her success in drafting and passing the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Act through the United States Congress, and the importance of being politically active.

The key take-aways from the conference include: the threat of defunding for commissions across the nation, the need for greater female representation in government, and the persistent gender wage gap.

### WNY and NYS Pay Equity Update

In New York State, changes are happening that will help to bring us closer to equality in the workplace. Executive Orders 161 and 162, ensuring pay equity by state employers and pay equity by state contractors were signed in January 2017 by Governor Cuomo. [EO 161](#) prohibits state employers from asking applicants about their salary history, while [EO 162](#) mandates state contractors to complete detailed workforce utilization forms in addition to complying with equal opportunity guidelines. Additionally, Governor Cuomo formally appointed the Department of Labor with the task of investigating effective policy changes and strategies for eliminating the gender wage gap on Equal Pay Day, April 4th. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and State labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, who are leading the project, held a series of public hearing about the gender wage gap throughout the state as part of their research. They travelled to NYC on June 26, Syracuse on July 11, and concluded the tour here in Buffalo on July 19th. ECCSW Executive Director Karen King spoke at this final hearing. Lt. Governor Hochul and Commissioner Reardon will present their findings to Governor Cuomo by the end of the year. Finally, the state's [Paid Family Leave](#) policy will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, offering the most comprehensive paid family leave policy in the country.

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