
Maryland Commission for Women

Celebrating 40 Fabulous Years for Maryland Women

*'Equality of rights under the law shall not be
abridged or denied because of sex'*

Article 46, Declaration of Rights of the Maryland State Constitution



1965 – 2005

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Kendel S. Ehrlich
First Lady

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Christopher J. McCabe
Secretary

The Maryland Commission for Women is the State agency charged with identifying problems, defining issues and recommending policies and solutions that will ensure full and equal participation of women in today's society.

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Frances Hughes Glendening, First Lady 1994 - 2002

Randa Fahmy Hudome, Chair, Maryland Commission for Women

Mission

The Maryland Commission for Women works with the Maryland State Government to advance solutions and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

Goals

- To work with government to help serve as a voice for Maryland women, in development of executive, legislative and judicial policies
- To promote solutions that address the needs of Maryland women
- To serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women

Major Accomplishments

1965 – 1967

On July 22, 1965, Governor J. Millard Tawes created by executive order the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. With the *Report of the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women* completed, the Commission was dismissed at the end of Governor Tawes' term of office.

1968 – 1971

In January 1968, when Spiro T. Agnew took office, the members of the former Commission drafted a formal letter expressing the necessity of reactivating the Commission. On November 2, 1968, Governor Agnew appointed the Second Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

1972 – 1975

On July 1, 1971, Governor Marvin Mandel signed the law creating the Maryland Commission on the State of Women as an Independent State agency. As an independent agency the MCW was able to conduct a systematic review of a wide range of state and federal legislation affecting

women, such as the Equal Rights Amendment, which was signed into law on December 5, 1972 by Governor Mandel.

1976 – 1979

On July 1, 1976, legislation changing the name of the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women to the Maryland Commission for Women became effective. During these years, a number of legislative initiatives were enacted, including Title IX, Sex Equity in Education, Women's Property Rights, Equal Credit Opportunity and Sexual Harassment in Employment.

1980 – 1983

On July 1, 1980, Women and Mortgage Credit was co-sponsored with the Women and Mortgage Credit Project of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In March 1983, Governor Harry R. Hughes proclaims Maryland Women's History Month.

1984 – 1987

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 through the efforts of the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland to honor Maryland women who made significant contributions and are models of achievement for future female leaders.

1988 – 1992

During the 1988 Legislative session, the Maryland Commission for Women's FOPP (Family Oriented Personnel Policies) taskforce supported HB 741 Family Leave legislation. The bill passed granting 12 weeks leave for state employees.

1993 – 1996

Governor William Donald Schaefer signed the Domestic Violence Act of 1994. In 1996, Women's History month resource packets were developed with the Maryland State Department of Education.

1997 – 2000

In honor of the 25 Anniversary of the ERA amendment to the Maryland Constitution, the MCW established the "Women of Tomorrow" Awards.

At the close of 2000, Governor Parris N. Glendening signed Executive Order 01.01.2000.11 creating the Girls Council as a unit of the Maryland Commission for Women.

2001 – 2004

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center will expand Commerce and Education – two of the Five Pillars of Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. – when it is developed in downtown Baltimore. The Maryland Commission for Women works in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education on this project.

The Commission became technologically wired by creating a Web site that included a database of service providers, government agencies and other organizations of importance to women and girls. The Commission, in partnership with the Women's Law Center of Maryland, produced new publications that are available in English and Spanish.

The Commission co-sponsored an Educator's Symposium on "Getting Girls to Get I.T." with the Discovery Communications, Inc., the Montgomery County Commission for Women and Technology Initiative.

"The Maryland Commission for Women continues to serve as an active and strong advocate for equal opportunities for the women of Maryland. Its members, staff and supporters are resolute in their commitment to equal access to opportunities for all Marylanders."

A Special Thanks to the Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women and all of those who contributed their time and talent to make this happen.

Maryland Commission for Women

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