



OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

December 5, 1984

His Excellency Governor Michael S. Dukakis
Office of the Governor
The State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a resolution adopted by the Cambridge City Council at its meeting of Monday, December 3rd, 1984. Said resolution recording the City Council in favor of the appointment and/or election of a woman to the soon to be vacant office of Lieutenant Governor.

Your very kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the City Council.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

Enclosure: City Council Order No. 7 of 12/3/84

ROBERT L. TURNER

The all-male state

Two centuries later, everyone seems finally to be heeding Abigail Adams' famous advice. Everyone, that is, except the political descendants in her home state - Massachusetts.

"Remember the ladies," Adams wrote to her husband, John, in 1777.

This year, voters and other political power brokers across the country were responding to her admonition.

Geraldine Ferraro's failure to win election does not erase the significance of her place on a national ticket. And, while the gains were not spectacular, women candidates continued to make progress across the country as more and more sought major office.

But not in Massachusetts.

The bastion of liberalism was once again an all-male preserve.

A look at the results in all the New England states, in campaigns for statewide office and for Congress, casts the story in stark contrasts.

In five of the six states, women were major-party candidates in contests they had a realistic chance of winning.

But not in Massachusetts.

In four of the six states, women won high office. But not in Massachusetts, or New Hampshire.

Of the two, New Hampshire's performance was better than Massachusetts'. Executive Councilor Dudley Dudley was running for a seat in Congress from New Hampshire and, while her 41 percent of the vote was a disappointment to her partisans, it was as well as any Democrat did running for major office in the state this year.

Massachusetts, by comparison, had exactly two women on the ballot for major office - a Communist, Laura Ross, running against House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., and a little-known Democrat, Mary Wentworth, who received barely a quarter of the vote as a sacrifice to the state's most popular Republican, Rep. Silvio Conte of Pittsfield.

Compare, please:

Connecticut kept two women in Congress, and almost sent a third, from a state with only six House seats.

Rhode Island returned its woman representative to Congress and also elected a woman attorney general and a woman secretary of state (who defeated a woman opponent). And women were also on the ballot in campaigns for lieutenant governor and US senator.

Maine kept its woman member of Congress, while another woman candidate lost a highly publicized but misdirected campaign for the US Senate.

And Vermont elected Madeleine M. Kunin its first woman governor.

But not Massachusetts.

As far as political office is concerned, the cradle of liberty rocks only boys.

The reason for the state's abysmal record with women candidates is not altogether clear.

Part of it may be that too few women who achieve a certain level of political viability - in the Legislature, for instance - are able to mount effective campaigns for higher office.

Part of it may be bad luck. Lois Pines came close to winning the Democratic nomination for secretary of state in 1978; Evelyn Murphy, seeking the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in 1982, also came close.

Part of it may also be the dominance of the Democratic Party here. This argument is a favorite of Republicans, but it has more than partisan merit. "The Democratic Party gives a lot of lip service to women, but doesn't follow through," Gene Hartigan, executive director of the state GOP, said yesterday. "If you have all the spoils, you don't want to share the power. That's a matter of simple greed."

Democrats protest, pointing out, for instance, that Murphy did receive the endorsement of active Democrats at the party convention in 1982 before losing her primary to John Kerry.

But the fact is that the Republicans have at least nominated a lot of women for high office, and they have cultivated women candidates at all levels. Nine of the 42 GOP legislators to be seated in January are women. The Democrats, by contrast, still have a record of never once nominating a woman for statewide office.

In the presidential election last week, Massachusetts was not unique - it was the second most Democratic state to Minnesota. But in terms of women candidates, at least in this part of the country, the state retains its title:

Massachusetts - the one and only.

Robert L. Turner is a Globe columnist.

RESOLUTION

COUNCILLOR ALFRED E. VELLUCCI

NOVEMBER 19, 1984

RESOLVED:

That this City Council go on record favoring the appointment and/or election of a woman to the "soon to be vacant" office of Lieutenant Governor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, inasmuch as no woman is holding office in the Constitutional offices of our Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED:

That copies of this resolution be sent to His Excellency Governor Michael Dukakis with the hope that he will cause the appointment of a woman to the office of Lieutenant Governor for the remaining years of 1985-86, said office of Lieutenant Governor will become vacant on January 1, 1985 because of the election of Lieutenant Governor John Kerry to the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Vellucci

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Respectfully submitted,

Alfred E. Vellucci

Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 3, 1984

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

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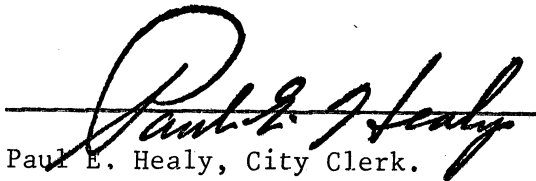
In City Council December 3, 1984.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-


Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

Order # 7 S-721

C. Vellucci re: City Council go on record
favoring the appointment and/or election of
a woman to the soon to be vacant office of
Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth.

transmittal letter + copies of resolution
as submitted sent to the City
Manager 12/6/84 mh

In City Council,

December 3, 1984

12/3/84

RV
A - J

C. Vellucci