State Political Primaries Held - Two Challengers Beat Incumbents

On Tuesday, August 9, 2016, Connecticut residents in several communities went to the polls to vote in contested party primaries for seats in the General Assembly. In total, 12 primaries were held, with 10 of those primaries involving Democratic and Republican incumbents.

Notably, two veteran Democratic state representatives were defeated by challengers. In West Haven, Michael DiMassa beat long-time Democratic Representative Louis Esposito. Mr. DiMassa, a revenue clerk in West Haven’s tax collector’s office, garnered the Democratic and Working Families parties’ endorsements during the spring convention. Rep. Esposito, first elected in 1993, serves as an Assistant Deputy Speaker.

Additionally, in New London, six-term Democratic Representative Ernest Hewett was unseated by Chris Soto. Mr. Soto is a Coast Guard Academy and Brown University graduate and founder of a not-for-profit organization that guides low-income youths through college.

In Bridgeport, all four Democratic incumbents — Senator Marilyn Moore, Senator Ed Gomes, Representative Andre F. Baker Jr., and Representative Charlie Stallworth — won their respective primaries.

New Britain Democratic Senator Terry Gerratana, the current Chairwoman of the Public Health Committee, defeated her challenger, Sharon Beloin-Saavedra. In Stamford, first-term incumbent Representative Terry Adams withstood a challenge from Dan Dauplaise.

In two Republican primaries, Representative Jason Perillo of Shelton defeated challenger Ruth Parkins, and in Winsted, incumbent Representative Jay Case beat David G. LaPointe.

There were also primaries for open seats, including the seat vacated by Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey, a Democrat first elected in 2000 who announced in May that he would not seek reelection. In that race, Hamden attorney and local business owner Joshua Elliott beat Hamden Council President James Pascarella. Additionally, in a Democratic primary in Bristol, social worker Laura Bartok defeated Christy Matthews, a University of Connecticut undergraduate. Ms. Bartok will now face first-term Republican Representative Cara Pavalock in the November general election.

With two incumbent legislators losing their primary races Tuesday, the General Assembly will welcome at least 25 new members in January due to retirements, primary losses, and legislators seeking other political offices.

Saint Mary’s Health System Joins Trinity Health – New England

Waterbury-based Saint Mary’s Health System has officially joined Trinity Health – New England. The state Department of Public Health’s Office of Health Care Access approved the transaction on July 27, 2016. Trinity Health - New England President and Chief Executive Officer Christopher M. Dadlez, FACHE, and Saint Mary’s President and CEO Chad Wable signed legal documents finalizing the transaction at Saint Mary’s on July 29, 2016. The transference of ownership became effective at 12:01 a.m., on August 1, 2016.

Saint Mary’s Hospital joins Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, and other entities in Hartford, Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, Sisters of Providence Health System/Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, and all of their subsidiaries, as members of Trinity Health – New England, which was established in October 2015. Together with Saint Mary’s, Trinity Health – New England employs more than 10,000 colleagues, physicians, and nurses in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

“Today we celebrate another important milestone as we welcome another compassionate, caring partner to the Trinity Health - New England family,” said Mr. Dadlez. “Our new colleagues at Saint Mary’s will be integral partners in advancing our goal of offering people-centered healthcare closer to home.”

The completion of the ownership transfer concludes Saint Mary’s lengthy search for a strategic partner and begins a new chapter at the 110-year-old institution.

“Becoming part of Trinity Health - New England will help Saint Mary’s achieve our vision and accelerate the implementation of our strategic plan,” said Mr. Wable, who will retain his position as President and Chief Executive Officer. “Trinity Health’s ‘People 2020’ strategy is perfectly aligned with ours, and joining Trinity Health - New England will help us with critical issues such as scale, resources, and expertise as we make the move toward population health.”
Saint Mary’s will maintain its own board of directors focused on the needs of its community. Trinity Health - New England is governed by a separate regional board of trustees comprising local community representatives as well as physician and Catholic organization representatives.

A Unity Ceremony to celebrate the affiliation is planned for September 8 at Saint Mary’s Hospital.

Trinity Health established the New England Regional Health System in support of its efforts to strengthen Catholic healthcare in New England and to create a people-centered health system. Trinity Health – New England serves as a regional, mission-driven health ministry committed to innovations and initiatives that improve the health of individuals and communities in the region.

The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare Agree to Affiliate

On August 5, 2016, the boards of The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) and Hartford HealthCare (HHC) approved a formal affiliation of their two organizations.

If the affiliation is approved by state and federal regulators, the Torrington-based community hospital would become part of the HHC network. Regulatory approvals are expected to take several months.

The HHC Board of Directors approved the affiliation agreement last week following CHH Board of Governors’ approval, working with the CHH corporators, on July 28. Both organizations had completed months of due diligence following their initial decision to consider an affiliation in February. Both CHH and HHC have determined that an affiliation would be in the best interests of the patients and communities they serve.

The strategic affiliation would improve quality and expand the scope and accessibility of affordable healthcare for patients in a culture of compassion, respect and integrity; support the recruitment of skilled providers; assist with community benefit programming; and allow for further necessary infrastructure investments.

HHC officials noted CHH’s tradition of providing high quality care to the people of northwestern Connecticut as well as the organization’s robust partnerships with local agencies and groups.

“Charlotte Hungerford has been at the center of healthcare delivery for Northwestern Connecticut since its founding a century ago,” said Elliot Joseph, President and Chief Executive Officer of HHC. “It is uniquely attuned to the healthcare needs of those it serves. We are excited to partner with Charlotte Hungerford to make quality healthcare more affordable and accessible to the communities they serve.”

Once the affiliation is approved, CHH will become the center of a new Northwest Region for HHC, Mr. Joseph noted.

Both organizations mutually agreed to further care delivery in the Northwest Region by making it fully integrated and more efficient. These agreements include the following investments:

- $50 million to fund maintenance and replacement capital projects for CHH.
- $20 million for a discretionary strategic investment fund.
- $3 million to support medical staff development and recruitment.
- $2.5 million to the Northwest Community Foundation to enhance economic and community well being in CHH’s service area.
- $500,000 over five years to support Litchfield County’s participation in the CDC-sponsored Community Transformational Grant Program.

“Charlotte Hungerford Hospital is celebrating 100 years of caregiving this year, and we are very excited to begin our next century with Hartford HealthCare because they share our mission and vision to provide quality healthcare to the communities of northwest Connecticut,” said Dan McIntyre, President and Executive Director at CHH. “This partnership will help position our hospital to remain a financially viable healthcare resource and best accomplishes the affiliation criteria our Board of Governors set out to accomplish in 2014.”

CHH intends to maintain and grow the hospital’s community relationships and services while continuing to fulfill its roles as a public health supporter, healthcare educator, and driver of the local economy.

Federal Funds Bolster Connecticut’s Zika Prevention Program

The state has received nearly $1 million in federal grants this month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that will be used to fight the Zika virus.

The federal funding, which comes to the state Department of Public Health (DPH) through two federal grants, will be used to protect Connecticut residents from the virus and monitor existing Zika cases. Together with an earlier CDC grant of $320,000, which was awarded to Connecticut in July, the state has received roughly $1.3 million in federal Zika funding.

A $579,000 grant announced on August 1 by Gov. Dannel Malloy’s office will be used to “support and enhance the state’s efforts to protect Connecticut residents from Zika virus and monitor serious birth defects, like microcephaly, and other adverse health outcomes that can be caused by Zika virus.”

A second, $400,000 grant announced on August 2 will be used by state officials to “establish, enhance, and maintain information-gathering systems to detect microcephaly,” the Governor’s office said.
"This federal funding will greatly enhance our current Zika testing program at the state laboratory, as well as mosquito surveillance being conducted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and will also allow us to establish a monitoring program through DPH's Birth Registry that will track infants born with Zika-related birth defects," said DPH Commissioner Dr. Raul Pino.

The Zika virus can cause microcephaly, a birth defect of the brain, if it is passed on to a baby in the womb of a mother who is infected.

As of August 10, 2016, DPH's State Laboratory had tested 519 Connecticut patients for Zika virus, including 390 pregnant women. To date, 49 patients, including 3 pregnant women, have tested positive for the virus. None of the cases were locally transmitted, DPH said, which means all of the patients contracted the virus as a result of traveling to Zika-affected areas in the Caribbean, or Central and South America.

**Education Updates**

**Review Course for the ANCC's (RN-BC) and AAMSN's (CMSRN) Medical Surgical Certification Exams**

Session 1: Thursday, September 15, 2016  
Session 2: Friday, September 16, 2016  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This two-day course is designed to prepare the Medical Surgical Nurse with information needed to adequately prepare for both the RN-BC and CMSRN certification exams.

In order to take the Medical Surgical Nurse certification exam, the applicant must be a licensed Registered Nurse with an Associate's Degree or diploma from an accredited two-year RN program. The nurse must have worked at least two years in a full-time capacity as a Medical Surgical nurse, with at least 2,000 hours within the past three years. Additionally, at least 30 hours of continuing education hours should have been completed in Medical Surgical nursing over the past three years.

**HRO Safety Coach Training**

Tuesday, September 27, 2016  
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

**Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach**

Tuesday, September 27, 2016  
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
[Event Registration](#)

This session supports CHA's efforts to take care of the staff who take care of patients. Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach discusses behaviors, techniques, and measurement for worker safety, as used by other high reliability hospitals that are farther along in their high reliability journey.

**HRO Rounding to Influence**

Wednesday, September 28, 2016  
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
[Event Registration](#)

The program teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, mentor, and sustain high reliability habits and practices. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

**HRO Fair and Just Accountability**

Wednesday, September 28, 2016  
1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
[Event Registration](#)

This session, for Human Resources executives and anyone else who manages people, will train staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event — to focus on the behavior rather than the outcome. Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for these sessions.