



Informed. Involved. Inspired.

SC Women in Leadership Gubernatorial Appointments Project

SC Women in Leadership, a multi-partisan organization, is launching the Gubernatorial Appointments Project (SC GAP). In keeping with its mission to serve as a source of information for women about local and statewide opportunities to run for appointed and/or elected office, SC Women in Leadership (SC WIL) plans to connect with and categorize information about hundreds of qualified South Carolina women who could serve, with the Governor's appointment, on state boards and commissions. Inspired by the Massachusetts Gubernatorial Appointments Project under then-Governor Mitt Romney, members of the SC WIL Board of Directors have extensive experience in running such a project.

Why is SC GAP needed?

- Women make up 51.5% of the population, but are underrepresented in state government.
- Less than 1/3 of cabinet agency directors are women.
- South Carolina ranked 44th in electing women in 2019, making up just 15.9% of the state Legislature.
- Women bring a different perspective and a wealth of experience to the table. They work collaboratively to solve problems.
- There are currently 975 gubernatorial appointed board and commission positions with either expired terms or vacancies.

How does SC GAP plan to address the representation imbalance?

- SC GAP is using its statewide network and partner organizations to reach women across the state with a wide array of expertise.
- Rather than the Governor's office having to exclusively seek out appropriate candidates, we will recruit candidates, guide them through the [application process](#), and serve as a liaison between candidates and the Governor's office.
- Modelled on our county and city boards and commissions project, we are creating a database of vacant and expired positions across the state. While a [list of openings](#) exists on the Secretary of State's website, it offers no information about qualifications or the application process.
- Site visitors will be able to search vacancies, categorized by area of focus, along with position requirements, governing statutes, and term expiration dates.



- Interested candidates will be directed to our confidential [online registration form](#) where they will submit their current information, resume, and references.
- SC WIL staff will match applicants to the most appropriate positions and provide their information to the Governor's office for consideration in batched groups by category, e.g., agriculture, transportation, education.
- Interested candidates will be able to contact SC WIL staff for assistance and guidance at any stage in the process.

How does SC GAP benefit the Governor and State?

- SC GAP provides the Governor's office with pre-qualified female candidates of mixed political backgrounds who have expressed keen interest in serving in specific areas. Biographies and resumes of screened candidates will be delivered electronically by SC WIL staff to the Governor's office in batches by area of interest.
- It presents the Governor's office as an advocate for diversity, particularly with women of all political persuasions, and an administration intent on finding the best candidates.
- By adding qualified women, SC GAP will help broaden the perspective of boards, reducing the appearance of demographically-limited governing bodies.

What role can the Governor's office play in helping SC GAP succeed?

- Help spread the word about SCWIL's program and the Governor's invitation for women to apply.
- Identify a high-ranking person within the Governor's office to serve as co-chair of SC GAP. There will be both a Republican and Democratic co-chair.
- Provide a staff contact with whom SCWIL can communicate and who can accept qualified candidates for specific boards and commissions on behalf of the Governor.
- Offer clarifications to individual candidates about the appointment process.
- Help SC WIL track appointments as they are made.
- Offer feedback on the areas where more applicants are needed.

Together we can redress the representation imbalance while filling the hundreds of vacancies on gubernatorial appointed boards and commissions.