



Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) November 2012 e-newsletter! We value your input as we share updates and breaking news on WiLL events and member activities.

Election News

Former WiLL state director, **Kyrsten Sinema**, has been declared the winner in the race for Arizona's 9th congressional district! Though Sinema held a narrow lead from the beginning of the vote count, it took several days to call this very close race. She joins former WiLL member, **Lois Frankel** (FL-22) in the U.S. House of Representatives and former WiLL member, **Tammy Baldwin** (WI), who moves to the Senate from the U.S. House!

In 2010, the number of women serving in state legislatures dropped, part of a disappointing nationwide dip in the number of women serving in office. We're happy to report that next year the number of women serving in state legislatures will increase slightly to around 1,781. Of course, that's still only a little over 24% of all state legislators, which means we have a lot more work to do! For information about why women are less likely than men to run for office even though they have equal odds of winning, check out the facts from this [recent WAND/WiLL webinar!](#)

WiLL Vice President, **Sen. Sandy Pappas** (MN), was elected by her caucus to serve as the Senate President. **Rep. Jennifer Seelig** (UT), a member of the WAND board, will serve as Utah's Minority Leader. If you or other WiLL members you know are ascending to leadership positions, please let us know!

WiLL in the News

In a North Carolina letter to the editor, **Sen. Ellie Kinnaird** (NC) called attention to our nation's [misplaced budget priorities and overspending on weapons systems](#) that don't address 21st century security concerns.

WiLL Vice President **Sen. Sandy Pappas** (MN) co-authored an op-ed with University of St. Thomas in St. Paul Professor Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer applauding a recent St. Paul City Council resolution calling for reductions in Pentagon spending. Sen. Pappas and Professor Nelson-Pallmeyer urged Congress to [make responsible cuts to Pentagon spending](#), citing many underfunded needs in their community.

Former state senator, WiLL Pacesetter/Trailblazer, and Gold Star mother, **Becky Lourey** (MN), authored a hard-hitting op-ed that calls for [investments in programs that serve our veterans](#), not those that pad Pentagon contractors' pockets. Veteran and WAND Education Fund board member, **Rep. Karen Camper** (TN), [urged Congress to stop using our troops and veterans to halt realistic conversations about the Pentagon budget.](#)

W/LL on the Hill

This week in Washington DC, W/LL members will be meeting with their members of Congress to advocate for a budget that serves the needs of their constituents, not Pentagon contractors. If you'll be in DC, please let us know! We're happy to help you set up meetings with your Congressional delegation.

Upcoming Webinars

Two upcoming WAND webinars offer valuable information about the best ways to talk to other leaders and your constituents about the upcoming fiscal showdown on Capitol Hill.

Our **November 27 webinar at 1PM EST** will feature ReThink Media reviewing effective communication tips about budget priorities, Pentagon spending, nuclear weapons and national security. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

On **December 10 at 1PM EST**, nationally renowned pollster Celinda Lake will share her latest assessment of current public opinion and what messages can help shape this debate in an exclusive webinar for WAND/W/LL. [Register today!](#)

Connect with W/LL

For the latest on W/LL events and news, be sure to follow @WomenLegisLobby on [Twitter](#) and friend W/LL on [Facebook](#).

Upcoming Events

Save the Date! 2013 W/LL Conference| Sept. 29-Oct. 1 | Washington, DC

W/LL is a program of [Women's Action for New Directions](#)