



# CONNECTICUT SENATE REPUBLICANS

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## SEN. HEATHER SOMERS

Senator Heather Somers, a resident of Groton, was elected to serve the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate district in November 2016. The 18<sup>th</sup> district includes Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington and Voluntown.

A Chief Deputy Senate Republican Leader, Sen. Somers serves as Ranking Member of the Public Health Committee. This panel has cognizance of all programs and matters relating to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Developmental Services and the Office of Health Care Access. The committee also has jurisdiction on matters relating to emergency medical services, all licensing boards within the Department of Public Health, nursing homes, pure food and drugs, and controlled substances, including the treatment of substance abuse.



Sen. Somers also serves as Ranking Senator on the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

In addition, Sen. Somers serves as a member of the Appropriations Committee, which formulates the spending portion of the state budget, as well as on the Commerce Committee which has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Economic and Community Development. She has previously served as Ranking Senator on the Transportation Committee, where she has been a frequent critic of wasteful spending by the Connecticut Port Authority.

Sen. Somers is the former chairwoman of the Communications Subcommittee of the state's Vaccine Advisory Task Force. She serves on the Governor's Council on Women and Girls which provides a coordinated state response to issues that impact the lives of women and girls, their families, and the State of Connecticut.

Sen. Somers currently leads the legislature's bipartisan "Tourism Caucus" to promote policies which bolster the state's tourism industry. The state's leading business group, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association in 2022 awarded Sen. Somers a perfect 100% score for her pro-job growth voting record. Sen. Somers was a founding partner of Hydrofera, a medical device manufacturer that employed nearly 100 people in Windham County.

Sen. Somers served on the state's Covid Vaccine Advisory Committee and as Chairperson of the Vaccine Communications Subcommittee. In 2022, Sen. Somers was recognized by the Keep the Promise Coalition for her mental health policy advocacy. In 2021, Sen. Somers received the "Fairview Medal" from Groton-based Fairview for her commitment to improving senior housing. In 2019, Sen. Somers was named a "Champion of Elder Care" by the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities/Connecticut Center for Assisted Living in recognition of her "fierce, intelligent and outstanding leadership on behalf of Connecticut's skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities, their employees and especially the residents they care for."

Sen. Somers served for five terms on the Groton Town Council, and served as Mayor for the Town of Groton from 2012-2014. As Mayor, she established an Energy Efficiency Task Force to evaluate energy saving initiatives throughout the town and spearheaded a School Planning Task Force to address the issues of racial imbalance and aging school infrastructure. She also worked tirelessly with the town council to deliver the citizens of Groton two tax decreases during her tenure.

A native of Groton, Sen. Somers previously served as the Chairman of the Council's Economic Development Committee and served on the Finance and Public Health committees as well as the Utilities Expansion Steering Committee.

Sen. Somers is the recipient of the Medical Device Excellence Award (2000) and a Silver Award Winner for the Connecticut Women of Innovation Awards (2007).

Sen. Somers holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Connecticut and resides in Groton with her husband Mark Somers and three children.