



TOWN OF PRESTON
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CCM Honors Local Leader with Innovation Award

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) announced the recipient of its 2025 municipal leadership award, recognizing extraordinary public service and innovative local governance at its annual convention on December 2, 2025. Among this year's honoree is First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier of Preston, recipient of the Richard C. Lee Innovators Award.

First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier: Richard C. Lee Innovators Award

First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier is honored for her exceptional leadership, innovative problem-solving, and collaborative governance that have transformed the Town of Preston. Elected in 2019, just months before the onset of the pandemic, Sandra guided the town through unprecedented uncertainty while advancing strategic investments and long-term community growth.

Under her leadership, Preston has secured more than \$12 million in grant funding to improve roads and bridges, upgrade public works facilities, enhance parks and recreation, and strengthen public safety. She has championed transparent operations, equity in municipal staffing, and modernization through a comprehensive compensation and classification study.



"Thank you very much. I'm honored for this award and I think everybody in this room believes in giving back, which is one of the reasons I decided to run as First Selectwoman back in 2019," said Preston First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier. "Similar to what Bob Morra said for the Lifetime Achievement Award, you can't do it by yourself. I am very appreciative of the Preston team, the Preston Boards and Commissions, the Preston community, all of the partnerships that we've established. It's truly a collaborative effort and none of these would've happened without them."

Sandra's emphasis on partnership has yielded a groundbreaking Joint Strategic Plan with Preston Public Schools, joint staffing in finance and payroll, and cost-saving regional purchasing. She has reinvigorated community engagement by restoring popular events, expanding recreational programs, and helping to launch the Passport Program to boost local businesses.

Her commitment to shared services includes regional collaborations in zoning enforcement, assessor services, and mechanical support that improve efficiency while reducing costs.

With more than 20 years of service in elected and appointed roles, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier exemplifies forward-thinking leadership that strengthens communities and inspires innovation.

About CCM

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is the state's largest nonpartisan association of municipal leaders, working to strengthen local government through advocacy, education, research, and service.

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