



QUESTIONS FOR SECRETARY OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) NOMINEE

By: Stephanie A. D'Ambrose, Director

SECRETARY OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ([CGS §§ 4-65A](#), [4-66](#))

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary is responsible for (1) all aspects of state staff planning and analysis for budgeting, management, energy policy, intergovernmental policy, criminal and juvenile justice planning, and program evaluation; (2) maintaining financial records, examining agencies to determine their effectiveness, and recommending ways to improve state agencies; and (3) serving as the employer representative in collective bargaining between the state and most state employee unions.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe your experience as OPM secretary over the past four years. What were the greatest challenges you faced and how did you confront them?
2. What are your agency's legislative priorities for this session?
3. The Office of Fiscal Analysis is projecting deficits of \$1.3 billion in the next fiscal year and \$1.4 billion in FY 2016-17. How will the governor's proposed budget address these projected deficits?
4. In its January monthly budget report, OPM projected a \$121 million deficit for the current fiscal year, prompting the governor to order a second round of emergency spending cuts. Please describe the process by which OPM determines (a) which agencies and accounts will be subjected to rescissions and (b) what those amounts will be. Do you believe that additional cost reduction measures will be necessary for the current fiscal year (e.g. deficit mitigation legislation)?
5. The January budget report projected a \$120 million deficiency in the Medicaid account, an increase of \$50 million from OPM's December

report. What caused the increase in the projected deficiency? What steps will you recommend to address it?

6. Governor Malloy has indicated that he plans to announce a comprehensive plan to improve transportation systems statewide over the next several decades. How will his plan be funded?
7. OPM recently reorganized its Office of Labor Relations, indicating that the former director will be replaced with a political appointee. What do you hope to accomplish with reorganization?
8. What steps has OPM taken in the last four years to increase the state's receipt of federal funding? How successful have those efforts been?
9. How does the state currently use bond premiums? Treasurer Nappier indicated that she will propose legislation this year to require that bond premium payments be used to help avoid future borrowing. What are your thoughts on the treasurer's proposal? And are there other changes to the use of these bond premiums that you would recommend?
10. With casino projects approved in Massachusetts and expected to proceed, Connecticut's gambling revenue is projected to decline. How can the state mitigate, or else absorb, that lost revenue?
11. In late 2013, OPM submitted a report analyzing the boundaries of logical planning regions. Based on the report's findings, do you believe that regional cooperation presents a significant opportunity for municipal cost-savings? If so, what are the impediments to these opportunities and how might policy-makers address them?
12. Comptroller Lembo recently released a white paper proposing the creation of a "recessionary seawall" to stabilize the state's Budget Reserve Fund and lessen the impact of volatile income tax revenues on the state budget. What are your thoughts on his proposal? Do you believe it would reduce the budget's volatility?

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