



OCTOBER 2023 | ISSUE 2

# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## WHO IS THAT?

**Connecting with Your Branch Liaison from the State Public Policy Committee**

Each AAUW California branch has a specific state Public Policy Committee member liaison. **To find your liaison [CLICK HERE](#).** Since last month we have updated the list with each liaison's email contact information. **You can also get to know everyone a bit better through checking out their individual profiles [HERE](#).** In addition to matching a face with a name, profiles provide more information about how members of the state public policy committee answered the question: **What do you find most important about public policy?**

## CA LEGISLATION

**What's happening with supported bills?**

Check out priority bill AB1078, which expands the diversity of the social science curriculum. If a school district has not provided sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, their local control funding formula allocation will be reduced. The NL article on the next page provides more detail on AB 1078 and offers a round-up on our successes in this cycle.

**Click [HERE](#) if you would like to sign up for ACTION ALERTS on AAUW California's priority legislation in the future.** A copy-and-paste shareable link is included in this month's NL text (found [HERE](#)). Please share the action alert sign-up link with anyone who you think may be interested--share within your branch, to friends and family, or to the general public through your social media networks. Sharing to non-AAUW members is encouraged as we can also think of them as possible **future** AAUW members.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Wednesday 12/06 @ 2pm PT  
Virtual Meeting**

Second bimonthly meeting for branch public policy chairs. Amy and Missy will provide updates and answer questions. **Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.**

## TO DO:

- Access the agenda, slides, and recording from the 10/04 CA State Public Policy Chairs' meeting [HERE](#).
- Sign up for CA legislative Action Alerts [HERE](#).
- Watch the School Board Project Webinar [HERE](#) and check out the toolkit [HERE](#).
- Check out your Google Workspace Resources [HERE](#).

**[BILL TRACKER](#)**

# SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

Check Out SBP's Updated Resources!

There is a movement across the country as well as here in California to install school board members who want to ban books, censor curricula, and establish policies that are harmful to LGBTQ+ students. **The School Board Project (SBP) subcommittee has been formed to assess the extent of the issue in California, AAUW California membership's concern over the issue, and members' willingness to take action.** SBP also provides the Public Policy Committee and state board with recommended courses of action.

For the many members who have already expressed concern over these issues (and an interest in taking action), SBP members have created a helpful toolkit for protecting your School Board from members who support book-banning, curriculum censorship, and anti-LGBTQ+ policies. **Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).**

**If you want to know more, you can also check out [the recording of the September SBP webinar](#) entitled, "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!"** which explains the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help.

And if you have not yet responded to the SBP survey, which asks questions about YOUR school districts, take a moment and do so. **You can find the survey [HERE](#).**

## TAKE ACTION!

September Impromptu Roll-Out of Action Alert

**In September, we had the opportunity to roll out our first official action alert** as we worked to get Governor Newsom to sign one of our priority bills: AB 1394. AB 1394 prohibits social media companies from designing infrastructure that knowingly facilitates, aids, or abets commercial sexual exploitation. This helps protect our children from sex abuse and sex trafficking. You can read more about the bill [HERE](#).

The action alert sent an email template, social media language, and images (like the one posted here) to subscribers along with directions about how to use your accounts to best reach the Governor through posting, tagging, and emailing. **The deadline for outreach to the Governor has passed, but if you missed it, you can access the information [HERE](#).**

AAUW California's Instagram account will be lighting up in the next legislative cycle, so be sure to follow [@AAUWCA](#), too!

Child sexual exploitation is rampant on social media platforms.

AB 1394 holds big tech accountable and helps protect our children from sex abuse and sex trafficking.

Take Action Now. →

Contact Governor Newsom to encourage him to sign AB1394 (Wicks) before 10/14/23.

Sign up for Action Alerts [HERE](#)

CONTACT US AT [PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG](mailto:PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG)

## 2023 California Legislative Session Round-Up: AAUW California's Priority Legislation

By Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

September 14, 2023 was a tense day in Sacramento: the last day for each House to pass bills that could be sent on to the governor. After at least nine months of writing, researching, amending, and lobbying, the legislative session drew to a close. So how did AAUW California's priority legislation fare?

While, at the time of writing, AAUW California still has some priority legislation sitting on the governor's desk (he has until October 14, 2023 to sign), we are happy to report that our priority bills did pretty well in this cycle!

### Priority Legislation by the Numbers

#### 2023 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard



Note that legislation listed as a "2-year bill" will be reconsidered in the 2024 legislative cycle.

Our three A-level bills this year were AB 1394, AB 549, and SB680. AAUW California was also a co-sponsor on AB1394. While none of our A-level bills have yet been signed into law, AB 1394 is currently sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting a signature. AB 549 and SB 680 have both been transformed into 2-year bills.

Our four B-level bills this year were AB 524, AB 1071, AB 1078, and SB 36. AAUW California added AB 1078 later

in the session at the request of the SBP Subcommittee, as it deals with preserving historically accurate and representative curricula for public schools in California. We are excited to report that two of our B-level bills have been signed into law: AB 1071 and AB 1078. AB 524 is sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting signature and SB 36 has been transformed into a 2-year bill.

We had thirty-one C-level bills this year. Eight of our C-level bills were signed into law. Ten are awaiting the governor's signature, and thirteen are now 2-year bills. For additional details about the bills that we supported at the C-level, or bills at any level, as well as access to the most current information, check out our bill tracker [HERE](#).

And if you would like to sign up for action alerts for AAUW California's Priority Legislation in 2024, you can sign up [HERE](#). You can also share the link below with anyone else—inside or outside of AAUW—who you think may be interested in receiving these alerts.

<https://forms.gle/zkxQM8gByqjGymTA>

# 2023 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard

16

Bills Transitioned to  
2-Year Bills

10

Bills Signed into  
Law

12

Bills Sent to  
Governor's Desk

## A-Level Priority Bills

**AB 1394. Sent to Governor's Desk.** Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and co-sponsored by AAUW California, this bill seeks to help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms, holding big tech accountable for design features that knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitate, aided or abet child exploitation.

**AB 549. 2-Year Bill.** Authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson. This bill would require all state agencies, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, to conduct an evaluation of their own departments to ensure that the state does not discriminate against women through the allocation of funding and the delivery of services.

**SB 680. 2-Year Bill.** Originally introduced as SB287, and authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill prohibits a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or by the exercise of reasonable care should have known, causes child users to experience addiction to the social media platform. This bill would subject a social media platform that knowingly and willfully violates these provisions to a civil penalty.

## B-Level Priority Bills

**AB 524. Sent to Governor's Desk.** Authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, this bill would prohibit discrimination against employees based on their status as a family caregiver, making it unlawful for employers to refuse to hire, fire, demote, or take other adverse employment action against workers because of their family responsibilities.

**AB 1071. Signed into Law!** Authored by Assemblymember Joshua Hoover, this bill would authorize and encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide teen dating violence prevention (TDV) education to all pupils in grades 7-12, at least once in middle school and once in high school. It also requires the District to make TDV resources available on its website.

**AB 1078. Signed into Law!** Authored by Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson, this bill expands the diversity of the social science curriculum, requiring instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and other ethnic cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups. If the school district has not provided sufficient textbooks or instructional materials, their local control funding formula allocation will be reduced.

**SB 36. 2-Year Bill.** Authored by Senator Nancy Skinner, this bill provides protections and support for any person fleeing prosecution, conviction, or sentence from another state for seeking abortion, contraception, reproductive care, or seeking gender-affirming care in California. It also provides protections for any person assisting the person seeking that care.