



# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Our Lobbying Work Pays Off!

Although the 2024 legislative session won't end until this fall, the governor has already started to sign bills. We are excited to let you know that **three bills on our agenda have already been signed**, AB 1955, AB1790, and AB2608.

To continue our legislative successes, **we are also asking you to take action again on AB 2326**. Please help us advance this sponsored bill, which we need to move out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill will be heard on August 5, 2024. **Scroll to Page 2** to learn more about the bills that have been signed and about how to take action on AB2326!

## SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

### Candidate Questionnaire Now Available

A school board candidate questionnaire is now available, courtesy of the AAUW Fallbrook branch. This is an excellent vetting tool. If a candidate approaches you for an endorsement or other support, ask them to complete this [questionnaire](#), which also can be found on the Public Policy website in the School Project toolkit.

Scroll to Pages 3-4 of this edition of PP News for a preview of Election Resources.

## WHERE IS THAT?

### Find All Things Public Policy

Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [AAUW Policy Leaders Manual from National](#)
- [Branch liaisons](#)
- Contact us at [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).
- **Tell us about your branch public policy events** by filling out this [form](#).
- **Sign up for CA Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#)**

## NEXT MEETING FOR BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS

Thursday September 5, 2024  
at 2:30pm Pacific

NOTE NEW TIME AND ZOOM LINK!

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

2024-2025 branch public policy chairs' full meeting schedule will be released in September 2024.

**SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS [HERE.](#)**

*click here!*

[2024 Bill Tracker](#)

# 2024 Legislative Agenda Updates

## CA Governor Signs 3 AAUW California Supported Bills



Although the 2024 legislative session won't end until this fall, the governor has already started to sign bills. We are excited to let you know that **three bills on our agenda have already been signed, AB 1955, AB1790, and AB2608. Hooray!**

**AB 1955** will prohibit school districts from requiring staff to notify parents if a student uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than what is on their birth certificate. California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outings of transgender students.

**AB 1790** will strengthen protections against sexual assault and harassment at California State University (CSU) campuses by requiring two reports from CSU on the status of their implementation of the State Auditor recommendations.

**AB 2608** will require the California Community Colleges and the CSUs, and request the University of California, to provide educational and preventive information on sexual violence and harassment, including how to recognize if someone is at risk of drug-facilitated sexual assault.



## Take Action Now!

### Action Alert: Help Us Advance AB 2326

To continue our legislative successes, we are asking you to take action again on AB 2326. This bill may look familiar, as we have asked you to advocate for it during Lobby Days and to act via Resistbot in the past. We are reaching out again for you to help us advance this sponsored bill, which will next be heard in the CA Senate Appropriations Committee on August 5, 2024.

#### Take Action Via Resistbot

Take Action by reaching out to CA State Senators using Resistbot. Click on **[THIS LINK](#)** to "sign" the petition in support of **[AB 2326](#)**. When you "sign," Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your CA State Senator. If you have sent this petition in the past, no worries! **It is more than fine to SEND THIS PETITION MORE THAN ONCE**, especially at a critical moment when we need to compel our Senator(s) to act.

#### Take Action Via Telephone

Take Action by reaching out to members of the CA State Senate Appropriations Committee to let them know that you would like to see this bill advance. Click on **[THIS LINK](#)** to access the list of Committee members. The best method for this outreach is via telephone. You can use the talking points below or follow **[this call script](#)**.

#### Learn More Before Taking Action

Click **[here](#)** to access talking points and **[here](#)** to access a fact sheet for AB 2326 before you sign the Resistbot petition and/or make your phone calls. **We thank you in advance!**

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE](#)**

# All The Election Resources

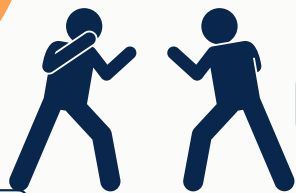
Coming in September--Stay Tuned!



Welcome to another presidential election year in the United States! We have you covered with ALL THE RESOURCES.

- In mid-September the Public Policy Committee will present a webinar on Get Out the Vote. More details to follow soon.
- In the September issue of Public Policy News, we will include an article on the California ballot initiatives we are supporting.
- In the next few issues of Public Policy News, we will include an overview of the Public Policy Priorities that are front and center in the upcoming election.
- In late September the Public Policy Committee will provide Candidate Comparison Guides for competitive Congressional races in California.\*

\*The Candidate comparison guides will focus on the races where an incumbent whose values are consistent with our public policy priorities is in danger of losing their seat, and where an incumbent whose values are not consistent with our priorities is being challenged by a candidate whose values align with ours. The guides will serve to educate voters on the candidates' positions on AAUW-supported issues. The competitive districts we have identified thus far are Districts 13, 22, 27, 45, 47, 49, 41.



## Reducing Polarization Through Talk

A Guide for Finding Common Ground

In the midst of another election cycle in the United States, the American public is inundated with the narrative that Republicans and Democrats are fundamentally different kinds of people. Political parties seemingly represent lifestyle brands that are chosen by groups with different kinds of beliefs. This perception of difference is both the reason for and the result of increasing political polarization—and political polarization's radiating impacts in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Longstanding social science research shows that our perceptions of the world are socialized. Our socialization shapes big things, like how we experience time or imagine the cosmos, as well as smaller more mundane things, like what we label as appropriate clothing for a particular event or how we show someone care and respect. Socialization research shows that we can be socialized to perceive and experience the world similarly, or very differently. The socialization of difference can keep us from understanding one another and achieving common ground and, over time, we may even develop the perception of specific kinds or groups of humans as fundamentally and irrevocably different from ourselves.

Regardless of our differences, longstanding research also shows that all humans have the capacity to understand one another and to translate between realities if and when we are willing to do so. Together, we can also shift problematic conventions, including those that perpetuate polarization. **Check out THIS GUIDE, written by Missy, to learn more about how you might approach difficult conversations during election season.**

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE](#)

# Public Policy Priorities & the Election

Considering How Groups & Candidates Align with Our PPPs

## Highlight: Title IX Protections

During the current election cycle, the California Public Policy Committee will be putting out a series of election resources—mentioned above—including candidate comparison guides. As part of these resources, we will also highlight some AAUW California Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) that are rising as central issues in the upcoming election and give you the tools to do your own candidate assessment(s).

**PPP Highlight: Equal access to quality public education for all students, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX.**

### Title IX: Political Action in 2024

As we have reported in PP News—and elsewhere—on Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX.

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:  
Vigorous enforcement of Title IX

The 2024 guidance sought to re-align Title IX with current interpretations of Title VII, which were expanded in 2020 to clarify what sex-based discrimination is and who should be protected. Importantly, in 2024 Title IX guidance extends Title IX protections to members of the LGBTQ+ community while strengthening and expanding protections for pregnant and parenting students and survivors of campus sexual assault. This is because guidance prohibits discrimination not only on the basis of sex, but also on the basis of sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

While the changes to Title IX have been widely supported as an overall good by a diverse coalition of gender equity advocates, including AAUW National and AAUW California in the spirit of equal access to quality public education for ALL students, the U.S. Congress, a group of states and state governors, and a number of advocacy organizations have passed legislation and filed lawsuits to block the new rules from going into effect, as scheduled, on August 1, 2024.

If you want to take action now to oppose the U.S. Congressional resolution, check out the Two Minute Activist from AAUW National HERE.

In California, a number of bills are being advanced to incorporate Biden Administration guidance and strengthen Title IX enforcement, particularly in higher education. In alignment with our Public Policy Priorities, AAUW California has been a strong advocate for much of this new state legislation, including the bill mentioned in our action alert section above, AB 2326.

### How Do the Candidates Stack Up?

While the Public Policy Committee will provide candidate guides for some races, we do not have the capacity to provide guides for all races. But do not fret! YOU can also do this investigative work on your own to understand where candidates and groups stand on issues, like Title IX, and to clarify how they align with our Public Policy Priorities here at AAUW.

To do this work on your own, assess publicly available data using the following set of questions:

- What are the candidates' public statements on the issue?
- What legislation have they sponsored or signed onto?
- What groups or organizations have they aligned with—and what are their public statements or positions on the issues?

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE](#)