

AAUW California Public Policy Priorities 2023-2025



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What We Will Cover

1. What is Public Policy?
2. What is the purpose of having Public Policy Priorities (PPPs)?
3. What is the basis for AAUW California's PPPs?
4. How are they determined?
5. What are the current Priorities and how are they realized in AAUW California's programs and projects?



What is Public Policy?

- Public Policy work consists of developing and implementing certain courses of action designed to advocate for an organization's policy priorities
- Individuals and groups often attempt to shape public policy through education, advocacy, or mobilization of interest groups. The process always involves efforts by competing interest groups to influence policy makers in their favor
- This process is necessarily *political* ("decision-making about distribution of resources or policy selection by those in power"). This is *not* the same as *partisan*, which involves the decision to support or oppose a particular candidate based on their party identification. **We are non-partisan, but we are not apolitical.**



What is the Purpose of Having PPPs?

1. Statement of what we stand for
 - a. Membership
 - b. Outside world
2. Establishes our legislative priorities
 - a. Guides our decisions re bills to support/oppose
 - b. Guides our positions on governmental policy decisions
3. Must be in line with National
 - a. Need not mirror
 - b. BUT – cannot be in conflict
 - c. Should not establish broad national agendas upon which National has not spoken
4. Are NOT for the purpose of developing programs to carry out our policies
5. Should be broad enough to encompass all contingencies within each policy's subject matter



What is the Basis for AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities?

1. Our Mission Statement:
To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

2. AAUW National's Policy Directives:
 - a. Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.
 - b. We work to increase the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, income, gender, and sexual identity, in policy- and other decision-making positions.
 - c. Our positions are shaped by our commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity.
 - d. We strive for our work to be inclusive and intersectional, collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to achieve equity for all.



How are They Determined?

1. Revised every two years with input from membership
2. Survey goes to all members requesting comments on all existing priorities
 - a. Keep (vast majority)
 - b. Eliminate (very few)
 - c. Modify – request for suggested modified language
3. State Public Policy Committee reviews all suggestions, applies following criteria:
 - a. Request to “Add” a new priority
 - i. Is it within our mission?
 - ii. Does it address a new issue germane to current circumstances?
 - iii. Would adding it meet the criteria set forth in the “Purpose”?
 - b. Request to “Delete”
 - i. What’s the basis for the request?
 - ii. Would deleting it diminish our ability to meet the “Purpose”?
 - c. Request to “Modify”
 - i. Would the modification/s alter the basic import of the priority?
 - ii. Does the modification/s fit the criteria in the “Purpose”?



2023-25 Priorities

4 Pillars (Circles)

- Economic Security for All Women
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
- Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
- Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles



Economic Security for All Women

What We Advocate	What We Do
Equity in the workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that increases equity for women - Leg Ad, Lobby Days• Publish research materials on the Gender Pay Gap to raise awareness• Provide programs that educate women regarding their rights in the workplace<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) StartSmart2) WorkSmart
Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that eliminates discrimination• Support legislation that increases accountability
Security in retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support related legislation
Access to job training for career development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that ensures women have the same access as men
Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and caregiving leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support related legislation



Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

What We Advocate	What We Do
Vigorous enforcement of Title IX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that strengthens enforcement• Weigh in on proposed changes• Provide support to plaintiffs alleging violations (National Legal Advocacy Fund)
Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that increases equal access• Support Student Debt Relief legislation• Publish educational materials on Student Debt
Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that removes barriers• Tech Trek
Civics instruction in all CA high schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation addressing this



Education (cont'd)

What We Advocate	What We Do
<p>Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oppose legislation and policies that support book banning and/or curriculum censorship • School Board Project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recruit and support anti-censorship candidates for School Boards 2) Members attend SB meetings, monitor and report to state committee
<p>Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support legislation/policies that provide increased funding for all schools for this purpose • Support legislation increasing broadband access, particularly in rural areas, and ensures all students have computers
<p>Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor legislation addressing this issue, support or oppose as is pertinent



Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

Self-determination in reproductive health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support pro-choice legislation/policies • Member state Abortion Council • Campaigned for Prop 1
Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment	Support/oppose related legislation
Freedom from violence in all its forms and against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public statement condemning racial violence by law enforcement against Blacks • Support for domestic violence related legislation • Support for gun-violence prevention legislation
Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/oppose LGBTQ+-related legislation • Oppose education policies harmful to LGBTQ+ students
Protection and expansion of voting rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively engaged in GOTV activities • Support/oppose related legislation
Support for United nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns	<u>THE 17 GOALS Sustainable Development (un.org)</u>



Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards	Support legislation
Access to leadership skills training	NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)
Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers	GovTrek

