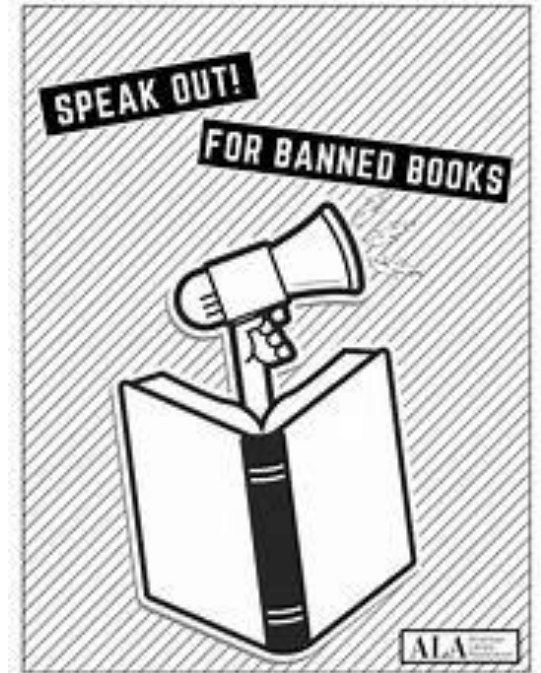


AAUW California Public Policy “School Board Project”

LA IBC - June 23, 2023



Presented By:

Kathi Harper

Public Policy Director - AAUW California



Samuel Turley

Civic Engagement Associate - Equality CA



Agenda - What We Will Cover

1. What is the Issue?
2. Who is Equality California?
3. How Can AAUW California members help?



What is the Issue?

Book Bans by the Numbers:

26 states

86 school districts

1100 books



The Issue

Report: 350+ Books Banned in Florida School Districts Since Last July

Miami New Times, APRIL 25, 2023

[ALEX DELUCA](#)

Approximately 41 percent of the banned works featured LGBTQ themes, main characters, or significant supporting characters. Characters of color made up 40 percent of the main or significant secondary characters, while 21 percent of the titles dealt with racial and racist topics.



Texas Senate Passes Bill Removing MLK, Suffrage From Required Curriculum

The bill also removes requirements to teach that white supremacy and the Ku Klux Klan are “morally wrong.”

By [Sharon Zhang](#), [TRUTHOUT](#) Published July 19, 2021

Gov. Reynolds signs law banning LGBTQ instruction, school books that aren't 'age appropriate'





Parents rally outside a Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) Board of Education meeting on June 20, 2023 in Glendale, California.

NBC News

TEMECULA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ERUPTS IN CHAOS FORCING LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STEP IN

HITC, Disha Kandpal

Wed 14 June 2023

Temecula Valley's school board's recent meeting erupted in chaos with parents and teachers screaming while discussing the board's previous month's decision to ban a social studies book that talked about gay rights activist Harvey Milk.

How Did We Get Here?



Since the group's founding in Florida in 2020, its influence over local and national Republican politics has grown exponentially: It's now a nation-wide movement with 260 chapters that claims to be a "grassroots" group working to protect students and defend parents' rights. Its members are leading the charge on book-banning campaigns across the country and the group says **it has helped install 275 of its favored candidates on school boards in 2022 alone**, dozens of whom don't have any children attending public schools in their districts.

VICE – David Gilbert, April 26, 2023

“Moms for Liberty” Start First California Chapter in San Luis Obispo County

By [Contributed Article](#) | May 12, 2021

Locally, a group of moms have joined “Moms for Liberty,” launched in January 2021 by two moms, both school board members, in Florida. This is a non-profit, non-partisan group promoting a return of power to the parents and the freedom to choose in what manner their children will be educated.

There are more than twenty new chapters of “Moms for Liberty” across the country, with the first California chapter right here in San Luis Obispo County. The group is looking for more interested local moms to start sub-committees, attend school board meetings, meet with board members and work toward getting the word out that parents truly can have a say and a choice in how their children are educated.

**Who is Equality
California, and what are
they trying to do about it?**

Why is AAUW California Involved?

Added to PPPs 2023-2025:

“Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information”



How Can AAUW Members Help?

Results of May 2023 Branch Survey

Replies	Branches	Current Issue	Possible Future Issue	Want to Help	Willing to Recruit	Branch Would Endorse	School Board Mtngs
72	58 (49%) 220 School Districts	13 Yes 6 Maybe	8 Yes 21 Maybe	27 Y 32 M	23 Yes 31 Maybe	37 Yes 30 Maybe	12 Current 25 Future Y 26 Future M

