



## Authority for School Board Candidate Involvement

AAUW Policies and Procedures provide guidelines for involvement by affiliate branches in recruiting, endorsing and campaign activities. The following are sections pertinent to our work with school board candidates:

### **AAUW Policies and Procedures: 301 CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

#### II. Endorsement of Candidates for Nonpartisan Elective Office

A. A nonpartisan elective office is an office for which party affiliation does not appear on the ballot next to the candidate's name.

B. AAUW affiliates with 501(c)(4) status (the majority of affiliates) **may recruit and/or endorse candidates for non-partisan elective offices.**

Two Caveats:

1. AAUW affiliates that have independently incorporated themselves as 501(c)(3) entities may not endorse candidates for any kind of elected office.
2. Before endorsing candidates for nonpartisan elective office, AAUW state affiliate organizations must carefully investigate state and local election laws.

Where state or local election law considers endorsement itself a contribution, AAUW state affiliate organizations may not endorse candidates for any elective office, partisan or nonpartisan.

**NOTE: California State Fair Political Practices Commission Regulation (FPPC) 18215 (a) provides that:**

A contribution is any payment made for political purposes for which a donor does not receive full and adequate consideration.

- Endorsement is not listed as an activity that is considered a contribution.

#### IV. AAUW Affiliate's Contributions (AAUW P&Ps)

A. AAUW affiliates may not contribute money, mailing lists, or anything of material value to candidates for any elective office, partisan or nonpartisan.

A. AAUW affiliates may not collectively volunteer time for candidates' activities through an official AAUW affiliate-sponsored activity.\*

A. AAUW affiliates may not publish paid or unpaid **partisan** political announcements or advertisements in any AAUW affiliate publication.

Note: Uncompensated messages on social media are not considered contributions (FPPC Reg 18215.2)

\*However, nothing prohibits a member from doing so in their individual capacity