



Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

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.

If you missed the last meeting on October 4, check out the [recording](#) and [slides](#).

To cut-and-paste the URLs in this issue, including those for text-based copies of the newsletter articles, go to page 6.

WHAT IS THAT?

Promote Young Women’s Leadership Development Through Gov Trek 2024

After a successful first year, Gov Trek is entering its second season. If you missed it last year--Gov Trek is a virtual program for high school junior and senior girls designed address the paucity of women in the halls of power and help young women consider careers in public service and elected office. The program is conducted online in seven two-hour Saturday sessions, each with a different focus related to political campaigning and pursuing a career in politics or public service. Learn more about the program and how to promote it [HERE](#).

CA LEGISLATION

Final Scorecard - 2023 Legislative Session

Since our last newsletter, the 2023 legislative session wrapped up with the Governor signing several more of our supported bills. Read on to access a visual scorecard of our successes (on pages 2-3)!

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 branches will have the opportunity to share ideas. Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

TO DO:

- Sign up for CA legislative Action Alerts [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. You can find a copy-and-paste shareable link on page 6.

[BILL TRACKER](#)

2023 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard, by priority level

18

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

19

Bills Signed into Law

3

Bills Vetoed

AB 1394. Signed into Law!

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.

19

out of

22

supported bills that made it to the Governor's desk were SIGNED.

= 86.3%

success rate

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.

A-Level Priority Bills

2

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

1

Bills Signed into Law

0

Bills Vetoed

B-Level Priority Bills

1

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

2

Bills Signed into Law

1

Bills Vetoed

C-Level Priority Bills

13

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

15

Bills Signed into Law

2

Bills Vetoed

Watch Bills

2

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

1

Bills Signed into Law

0

Bills Vetoed

2023 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard, by pillar

Economic Security for All Women

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

Social & Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including racially-motivated violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence.
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Removal of barriers to access for girls to instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership

- Proportional appointment to publicly held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

Economic Security for All Women

Social & Racial Justice for All Members of Society

7

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

1

Bills Signed into Law

1

Bills Vetoed

7

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

14

Bills Signed into Law

2

Bills Vetoed

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles*

Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students

*New Pillar-look for legislation in 2024!

0

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

0

Bills Signed into Law

0

Bills Vetoed

4

Bills Transitioned to 2-Year Bills

4

Bills Signed into Law

0

Bills Vetoed

California Enacts Law Prohibiting Book Bans and Curricula Censorship

By Kathi Harper, Chair, Public Policy School Board Project

On September 25, 2023, Governor Newsom signed [AB 1078](#) into law, officially preventing school districts from banning books and censoring curriculum based on the materials' depiction of inclusive and diverse perspectives. Specifically, the new law:

- Reaffirms, in the Introduction, that:
 - California supports accurate and inclusive education;
 - the California Constitution guarantees pupils equal protection under the law;
 - California schools have an obligation to combat bias against pupils within their schools;
 - and accurate and inclusive education are essential to ensure the educational success of all pupils
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidance and public educational materials to ensure that all Californians can access information about educational laws and policies that safeguard the right to an accurate and inclusive curriculum
- Requires all school districts to have sufficient instructional materials for all students that align with approved content standards
- Adds to list of included topics in social sciences textbooks: the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic status groups
- Reduces a school district's funding formula allocation if the district does not provide sufficient instructional materials pursuant to these provisions
- Prohibits governing members of school districts from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of any book or instructional material on the basis that it contains inclusive and diverse perspectives

It is not certain at this point how school districts will respond to the new law. We anticipate that most will comply, but suspect there are some that will not. Please note that the script in the School Board Project (SBP) ToolKit has been modified to reflect the new law, and please keep your SBP liaison apprised if your district is in violation (you can find your liaison in the ToolKit).

You can find **the text of AB 1078** [here](#)

You can find **the SBP ToolKit** [here](#)

Claudia Goldin Wins Nobel Prize in Economics for AAUW Aligned Research

By Nancy Major, Member, Public Policy Committee

One of AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities is to promote women in Leadership positions, so it is a pleasure to report that Claudia Goldin, 77, is the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics without men as collaborators and the third woman to win overall. She was also the first woman to be offered tenure in Harvard's economics department, in 1989.

Dr. Goldin's Nobel-winning study focuses on causes of the gender wage gap, the evolution of women's participation in the job market over the past 200 years, and the implications for the future of the labor force. In a paper in the National Bureau of Economic Research, Goldin writes that, "the golden era of American women's rights lasted from 1963 to 1973." Of the 155 important moments for advancement of women, 45% took place in those years during which women changed from having jobs to pursuing careers. This one factor is "among the grandest advances in society", according to Dr. Goldin.

However, her research also reminds us of the work that we have left to do to continue to advance.

Another AAUW Public Policy Priority is Economic Security for all women including equity in the workplace, enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes, access to job training for career development, and work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave. These are exactly the factors studied by Dr. Goldin to understand why U.S. women earn \$.80 for every dollar a man makes, why men's wages are higher than women's in the same occupation, and why women lag behind men in the top jobs.

"Women are now more educated than men," Goldin told the Associated Press. "They graduate from college at much higher rates than men. They do better in high school than men do. So why are there these differences?"

In the first half of the 20th century, laws limited women's ability to work when married or pregnant. In the second half of the century, birth control, later marriages and education resulted in substantial progress for women in the labor market. However, a gender gap persists into the present day—a gap that is compounded by additional factors, such as class, race, ethnicity, and ability. Dr. Goldin's research shows that, when gender is the primary factor for consideration, parenthood and lack of childcare are the main factors contributing to the ongoing pay gap. As women are normally expected to shoulder caregiving responsibilities in the home, this pay gap begins a year or two after a woman's first child is born. And yet, since the Comprehensive Child Development Act was vetoed by President Nixon in 1971, an act which would have created a national daycare program, consistent and affordable access to quality child care options remains elusive for most American families.

While Goldin's research is not focused on solutions to entrenched problems related to gender and labor, other economists note the importance of her work for better understanding these issues, which is a critical step for creating meaningful social and legal change.

All of The URLs

For Cutting and Pasting

Sign up for CA legislative Action Alerts here:

<https://forms.gle/zkboxQM8gByqjGymTA>

Branch Public Policy Chairs' 12/06 Meeting Information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WcFq-Pul8qsxVsYLzY_AU6wOZ55oPeQWcETPTmfeQnQ/edit

Branch Public Policy Chairs' 10/04 Meeting Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns23rvswmv8>

Branch Public Policy Chairs' 10/04 Meeting Slides:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1KftpuLa4TkEgvyZczAhfSHYHQwL6xHE7ligBTuO7ye0/edit#slide=id.gcb044da28f_0_0

Branch Public Policy Chairs' Google Workspace:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11Kfcy1cQYmVFib_2g_PlxcFLyNDL2CCA

Bill Tracker:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LdmkmUzkWpYeSo-q-jLOGuKkpQNJSYB8zeSgw67QVYk/edit#gid=0>

Gov Trek Website:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/gov-trek/>

Text of AB 1078:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1078

SBP Toolkit:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/>

Newsletter Article 1 (Laws-Book Bans):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W6cC1nV772dXNS4kTB2Hq1IR0NfknltO/edit>

Newsletter Article 2 (Claudia Goldin):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eawHChm3PYn8MTs8mSeM8FDBOonnv5h5/edit>