



Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

PROJECT 2025 WEBINAR

Project 2025 and AAUW CA's PPPs

On October 22, 2024, Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko delivered a webinar on the ways in which the Project 2025 agenda would, if implemented, be extremely detrimental to the California and National Public Policy Priorities (PPPs). The webinar specifically focused on potential negative impacts on things that have long been important to us as an organization, such as Title IX, sex-based discrimination, reproductive freedom, Link to Project 2025 Webinar is [HERE](#).

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Feedback & Reflection-State And National PPPs

As you might have noticed in our Get Out the Vote and Voter Education efforts, our national and state Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) are extremely important for shaping what we are able to say and do as a nonpartisan organization.

Your voice is critical for continuing to shape our PPPs! This year, we will conduct our biannual survey on the content of the [California PPPs](#). Please check your inboxes for the survey in November and take a few minutes to give us feedback.

On the National PPP front, you are invited to a Zoom meeting "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results" featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. The meeting is hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley and will be held on December 4, 2024 4:00-5:00pm Pacific. You can register [HERE](#).

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.
- **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 December 5, 2024 at 3:00pm Pacific

ZOOM LINK [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

Unless they fall on a holiday, bimonthly Peer Group Meetings will be held on the first Thursday at 3:00pm Pacific in Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun

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

click here!

[2024 Bill Tracker](#)

ALMOST ELECTION DAY LAST-MINUTE REMINDERS!



the School Board Project Asks You to Keep Your Eye on Local Races

This is such a consequential election and we understand that everyone is focused on Washington D.C., with high stakes for the Presidential and Congressional races. But let's not forget how important your local school board races are. Not only will the winning candidates have the power to shape the thinking of future generations; they also serve as the front end of the pipeline for higher office down the road.

If you haven't voted yet, we encourage you to become aware of which candidates are being endorsed by Moms4Liberty. Their selected candidates support either book bans, curricula censorship, or policies harmful to our LGBTQ+ youth – or, in most cases, all three. As these policies are antithetical to AAUW California's values, mission and public policy priorities, we urge you to consider casting your ballot for their opponents. These endorsements should be found in your local voter's guide, or sometimes on the candidate's web page. And if you're in Santa Clara County, you can find them here: https://momsforlibertysantaclara.com/candidates_2024.php.

Do You Have A Voting Plan?

MAKE A PLAN & TRACK YOUR BALLOT!
USE THE QR CODES BELOW TO HELP YOU.

Find Your Polling Place



Track Your Ballot



Important Dates & Times

November 5. Election Day! VBM ballots must be postmarked by today or dropped off at a polling location before 8pm, when polls close.

November 12. VBM ballots must be received to be counted.



2024 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard

12

Bills Died

25

Bills Signed into Law

4

Bills Vetoed

A-Level Priority Bills

AB 2843 - Signed into Law! Authored and sponsored by AAUW California, and carried by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, this bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Countless rape survivors do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.

AB 2326 - Signed into Law! Sponsored by AAUW California and authored by Assemblymember David Alvarez, this bill requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report, publicly and orally presented, of their schools' compliance with Title IX.

AB 2099 - Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Kevin McCarty, this bill makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

B-Level Priority Bills

AB 1790 - Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymember Damon Connolly, this bill requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.

AB 1831 - Signed into Law! Authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman, this bill expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.

2024 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard Highlights

Highlighting AB 2843

AB 2843, our authored and sponsored bill, has been getting a lot of positive press! Here is one of the press releases that went out in October 2024.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is an active gender equity organization with over 9,500 members in 116 branches, plus almost 2,000 members-at-large. For more than 130 years, AAUW has worked as a national grassroots organization to combat gender marginalization and improve the lives of millions of women, girls, and families.

"AAUW California would like to thank Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris for championing AB 2843, which will waive cost-sharing requirements for rape survivors in California," said Dr. Missy Maceyko, Director of Public Policy for AAUW California. "Cost-sharing requirements for most private health plans can be a painful barrier for rape survivors who wish to access emergency medical care and to seek justice following an assault. While rape kits and forensic exams are free, diagnostic and medical services result in an average \$362 to \$647 cost-share burden that for many, makes seeking care impossible. The decision to not seek care results in untreated injuries, additional survivor trauma and the loss of evidence and healing that accompanies the pursuit of justice." Dr. Maceyko continued, "In turn, without forensic evidence, sexual predators remain free and a continued threat to their survivor, and potentially, future victims. AB 2843 will provide needed care for thousands of rape survivors every year, and will take rapists off the streets."



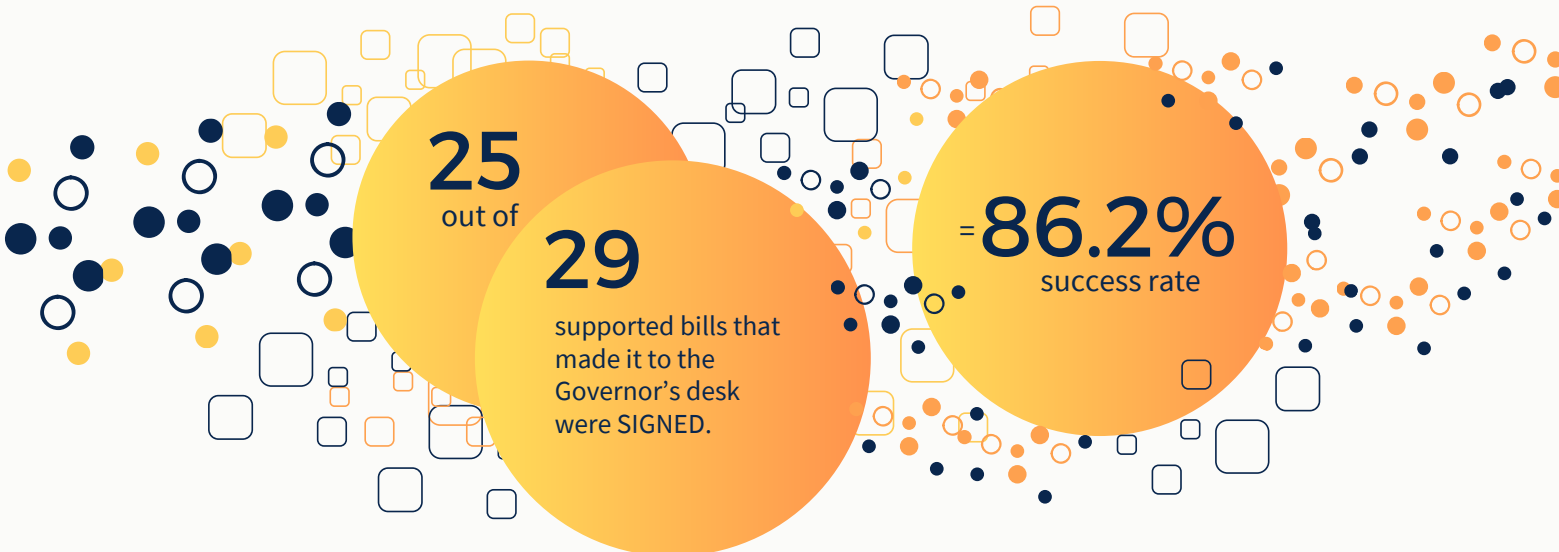
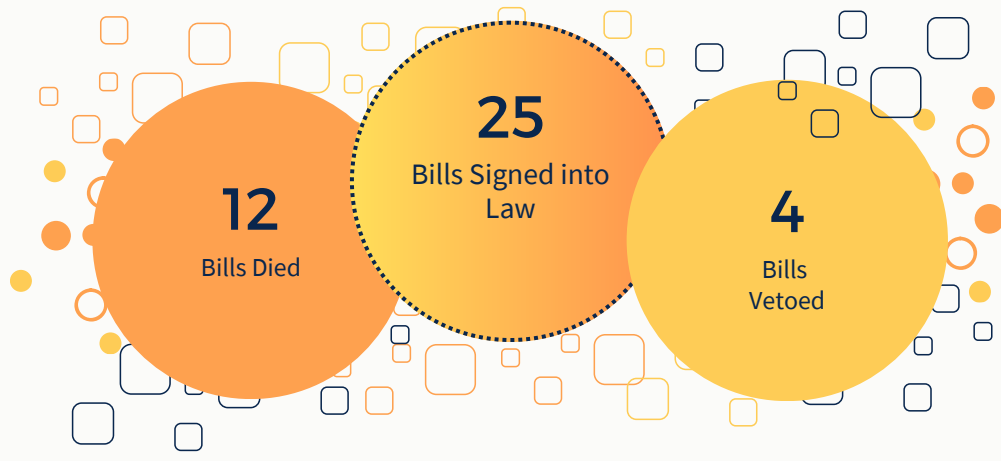
Highlighting AB 1955

AB 1955 - Signed into Law! This bill, authored by Assemblymember Chris Ward, was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Leg Agenda late in the process. AB 1955 prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth.

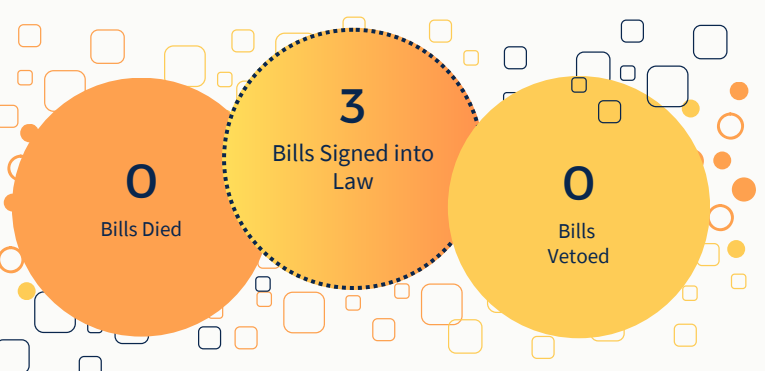


California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students! AAUW California is proud to have been a part of this effort.

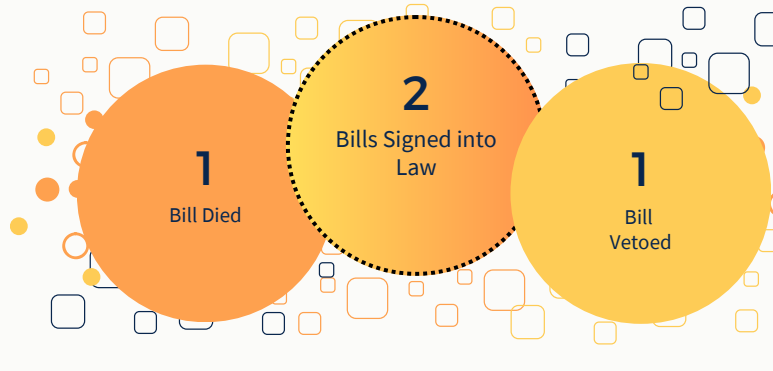
2024 AAUW California Priority Legislation Scorecard, by priority level



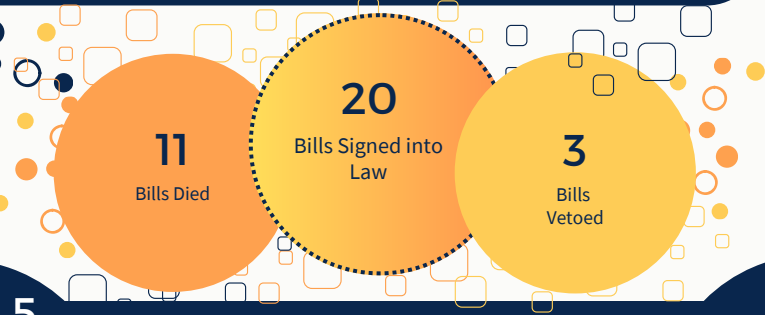
A-Level Priority Bills



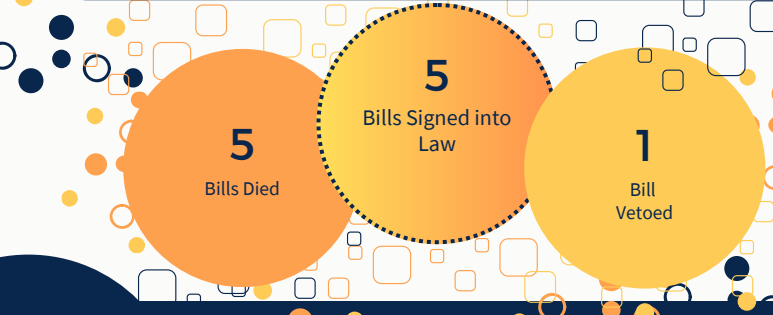
B-Level Priority Bills



C-Level Priority Bills



Watch Bills



2024 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

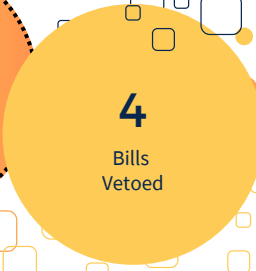
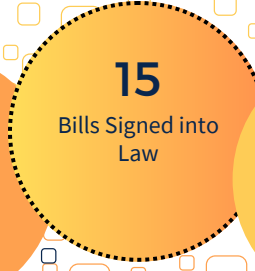
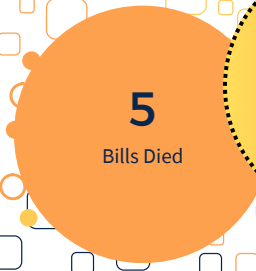
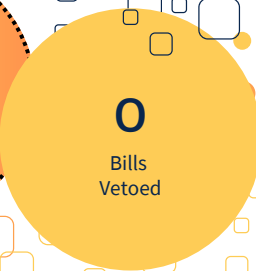
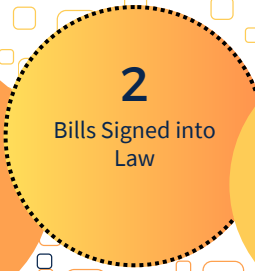
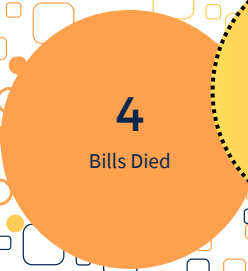
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Removal of barriers to access for girls to instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents 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

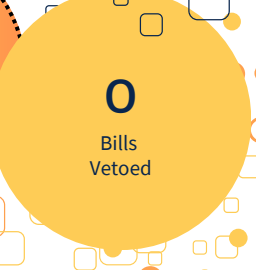
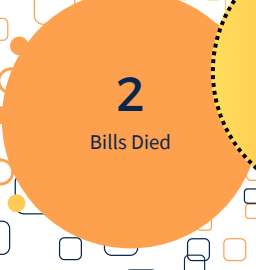
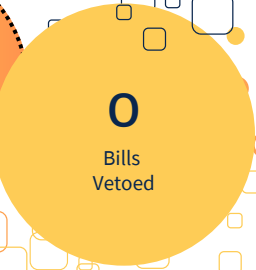
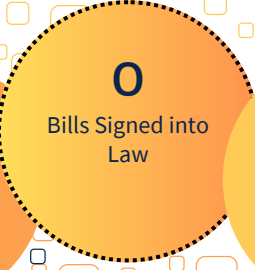
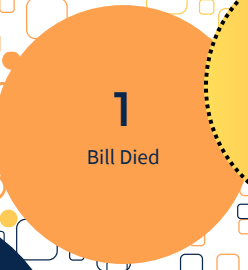
Social & Racial Justice for All Members of Society



Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles*

Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students

*New Pillar-look for legislation in 2024!



A Successful 2024 Legislative Agenda

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs AAUW California Public Policy Committee

2024 has been an exciting year for AAUW California's Legislative Agenda. There were many excellent bills that were introduced in the legislature early in the year. The Public Policy Committee evaluated over 60 of these bills that were most closely aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. Our committee met virtually over a weekend in March to discuss and vote on the best bills to include in our 2024 Legislative Agenda, prioritizing them into A, B, C, and Watch categories. We selected 41 bills for our Legislative Agenda, not including the Watch bills, and from March through September we worked to educate about and advocate for these bills.

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network, and thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Kathy Van Osten, our Legislative Advocate, 29 of the 41 bills on our Legislative Agenda made it to the Governor's desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law!

Excitingly, all three of our A priority bills were signed by the Governor:

- Our signature bill [AB 2843](#) was authored and sponsored by AAUW California. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. The bill was inspired when Kathi Harper, Public Policy Director, read an [OpEd piece](#) in the Los Angeles Times by [Dr. Samuel Dickman](#), Chief Medical Officer at Planned Parenthood of Montana, describing the plight of countless rape survivors who do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.
- [AB 2326](#), also sponsored by AAUW California, requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report of their schools' compliance with Title IX. The report will be publicly, orally presented to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance.
- [AB 2099](#) makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

Two of our B priority bills were signed into law:

- [AB 1790](#) requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.
- [AB 1831](#) expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.

And very significantly, AB 1955 was signed into law. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process.

- [AB 1955](#) prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth. California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.

For additional details on all the bills on the 2024 Legislative Agenda, see our bill tracking report [HERE](#).

And if you have not yet signed up for Action Alerts, and would like to be notified about opportunities to advocate for AAUW California's priority legislation in 2025, please sign up [HERE](#).

Lilly Ledbetter: A Beacon of Equality and Justice

By Erica Dias, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

One of [AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities](#) is economic security for all women, including equity in the workplace and enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes. Last week, an icon in the equal pay movement, [Lilly Ledbetter](#), passed away at 86.

Ledbetter's story is not just one of individual resilience; it embodies the ongoing struggle for women's equality in the workplace. Lilly worked for nearly two decades at [Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company](#) and uncovered that she was being paid thousands less per year than her male counterparts. This revelation sparked a fire within her, igniting a campaign that would forever alter the landscape of equal pay in America.

In 2007, Ledbetter [took her fight to the Supreme Court](#) yet [the Court's ruling](#) was disheartening; it stated that she had filed her complaint outside the statute of limitations. In response to the 5-4 majority opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg provided [one her infamous and noteworthy dissenting opinions](#), calling out the eight male justices for their apathy. "The court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination," she said, imploring Congress to act.

Undaunted, Lilly remained a voice for many. Her activism ultimately led to the introduction of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009](#), which President Obama signed into law as his first piece of legislation. This landmark act marked a significant victory in the fight for gender equality, sending a clear message that pay discrimination would not be tolerated.

Beyond the legislative impact of the Act, Lilly became an icon of empowerment and perseverance, traveling the world and encouraging others to stand up for their rights. Her memoir, [Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond](#) emphasized the importance of awareness and action in combating workplace discrimination. At the peak of the #MeToo movement, her [opinion piece](#) in the New York Times linked workplace sexual harassment to pay inequity. [Lilly, a feature film based on her life](#), premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10, 2024, just two days before her passing.

Lilly's journey reminds us that individual stories can catalyze monumental change and that every voice matters in the quest for equality. The [AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund \(LAF\)](#) challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The Fund has provided millions in support of hundreds of cases. View [Past Cases](#) and [Current Cases](#) to learn more.

Ledbetter's legacy shows us that change is possible through persistence, courage, and community. As we reflect on her contributions, we are called to continue the work of advocating for equality, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where every individual is compensated fairly for their contributions, regardless of gender. Together, we can continue to champion the cause of equality and ensure that Lilly's legacy endures.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS A TEXT-BASED COPY OF THE NL ARTICLE](#)

GET TO KNOW YOUR PPP COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

JOY FREW

She/Her/Hers

Branch: Fallbrook

Membership in AAUW: 6 years

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** 1 year

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"It can be effective to inform and create change."



KATHI HARPER

She/Her/Hers

Branch: California Online

Membership in AAUW: 20 years

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** 9 years

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"I joined AAUW because of our mission, and I find that doing Public Policy work is the most effective way of carrying out that mission. Our "Trek" and scholarship programs provide wonderful opportunities for girls and women on an individual basis, but Public Policy work has the potential to effect positive change for ALL women and girls in California, for now and for the future."



GINNY HATFIELD

She/Her/Hers

Branch: San Fernando Valley

Membership in AAUW: 25 years

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** 7 years

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"Educating members, engaging them, and advocating for the passage of legislation inherent to our priorities." "



AMY HOM

She/Her/Hers

Branch: Silicon Valley, California Online

Membership in AAUW: 4 years

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** 4 years

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"I used to believe that our nation would continually make positive progress in equity, diversity, and democracy. Instead I have watched the clock being turned back on reproductive freedoms, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, and diversification in higher education. Public Policy is the most impactful way that we have to advance equity, fairness, and social and racial justice for all members of our society."



SUSAN KARLINS

She/Her/Hers

Branch: San Jose

Membership in AAUW: 8 years

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** first year

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"The ability to leverage AAUW's excellent reputation in service of our powerful public policy priorities. And the opportunity to foster community within the branch while offering members opportunities to further our public policy goals."



DONNA KINDSCHUH

She/Her/Hers

Branch: Visalia Sequoia

Membership in AAUW:

**Member of AAUW California
State Public Policy Committee:** first year

What do you find most important about Public Policy and Public Policy work?

"I like to build community and I like advocacy for young women."

