



Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

ERA RATIFICATION

The fight continues

There is no longer a path for the ERA in the 118th Congress, but our work continues in coalition. AAUW joined the League of Women Voters and more than 140 partners in a recent [letter calling on President Biden to act for publication of the ERA](#).

As you may have seen, the U.S. Archivist and Deputy Archivist recently [issued a statement](#) on the ERA ratification process. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, responded: "We are extremely frustrated at the National Archivist's refusal to publish the ERA. Her decision to side with the Trump administration and against legal scholars and the American Bar Association is reprehensible. Dr. Shogan, publish the ERA. Women around the country have waited long enough."

AAUW will never give up on the ERA, and encourages folks to continue taking action [by making our voices heard](#).

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

AAUW Priorities Post-Election

Los Angeles County IBC invites you to a special meeting with **Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO**. Among the many leadership roles she has held to promote gender equity, Gloria currently serves as AAUW's Main Representative to the United Nations where our organization has special consultative status on the Economic and Social Council. She will share with us what this work entails. The meeting will be held on **Sunday January 12, 2025 2:00-3:00pm Pacific**. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246630038>, Passcode: 750330.

"**2024 Revisions to Title IX: How they Impact AAUW Values and Public Policy Priorities**". Kathi Harper, member of the Public Policy Committee and chair of the School Board Project, will share the latest updates on this important issue. The meeting will be held on **Thursday January 9, 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm Pacific**. Register [HERE](#).

"**Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go From Here?**" Join AAUW Silicon Valley to hear from [Emily Bazelon](#), noted staff writer for the New York Times Magazine, about the future of reproductive rights. Ms. Bazelon's writing focuses on law, women, and family issues. She explores shifts in American jurisprudence – for example, how the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe impacts people seeking abortions. The Zoom event will be held on **Wednesday January 22, 2025 1:00-2:00pm Pacific**. Register [HERE](#).

BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS' MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Thursday February 6, 2025 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 Feb, Apr, Jun

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

WHERE IS THAT?



Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [Branch liaisons](#)
- Contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
- Tell us about your branch public policy events by filling out this [form](#).

Why Public Policy Priorities Matter

By Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally to advance gender equity.



AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.



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History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

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