



# AAUW California Public Policy Peer Group Bi-monthly Meeting



October 10, 2025



# Agenda

- Updates from State
  - GOTV - Proposition 50
  - Legislative Agenda Updates
  - School Board Project Updates
  - New Committee Projects: CCAMP, Coalitions
  - Upcoming events and webinars
- Updates from National
- Q&A/Open Discussion



**Look for these icons for immediate or upcoming action opportunities.**



# Take Action - Prop 50 and GOTV

## VOTE & Get Out The Vote (GOTV) *Educate About the Positive Impacts of Proposition 50*

- Conduct outreach for the special election on November 4, 2025, to educate voters on the logistics of voting and the positive impacts of Proposition 50, focusing on delivering reliable, nonpartisan information.

*In an environment that is hyper-partisan and filled with misinformation, you can make a difference by providing California voters with trustworthy, fact-based information, which is currently missing from public discourse.*

**Check out the GOTV/Prop50 Resource Guide!**

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.**

**RECENT NEWS**

AAUW California Public Policy Shares Education-Focused, Nonpartisan Guidance on Proposition 50

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – September 26, 2025 – AAUW California today released nonpartisan voter-education information to help Californians understand Proposition 50, a statewide ballot measure on the November 4, 2025, special election. [Read full news release.](#)

**BE HEARD.**

**Special Election Nov. 4th**

[Press Room](#)

[2025 Bill Tracker](#)

[Take Action Now](#)

## Supporting Proposition 50 is a non-partisan move to:

- Preserve wider democratic norms in California;
- Oppose Project 2025 implementation in California; and
- Allow AAUW California to continue to advance its mission & public policy priorities

# A Take Action NOTE on Prop 50 and GOTV



**NOTE that on THE PROP 50 CAMPAIGN ONLY**

**we should not partner with League of Women Voters (LWV)**

- LWV has slightly different priority areas, so cannot make the same arguments about Public Policy Priority areas; and
- LWV is very concerned about the APPEARANCE of partisanship, even in voter education.

**Partnership on general GOTV and other matters is otherwise encouraged!**



# Take Action - Legislative Agenda

**Current Status of our 2025 Legislative Agenda:** Bill Tracking Report

**15 bills of 26 have made it to the Governor's desk, including Priority Bills:**

- SB 418: Ensure Equal Access to Care for All
- SB 771: Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians (AAUW CA Sponsored)

**4 bills have been signed into law!**

- AB 260: Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare
- SB 627: No Secret Police Act (first in the nation!)
- AB 969: CalWORKS requirements waived for Domestic Violence survivors
- SB 640: Automatic CSU admission for CA high school students

**Sign up for & Respond to Action Alerts! Follow us on Bluesky and Resistbot!**  
**Last day for Governor to sign bills is October 12, 2025.**

# Take Action - School Board Project

## Why is SBP VERY RELEVANT for Everyone in this moment? Check Out PP News!

Every month from September until the Half Day Symposium, the School Board Project Subcommittee will publish an article in the Public Policy News about “Why Participation in the School Board Project is so Critical.”

**Half Day Symposium - Saturday Jan 31, 2026 9:00am-12:00 noon** via Zoom. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.

- Keynote: Current State of Education Laws & the Challenges Presented
- Presentation: How to Effectively Monitor School Board Meetings for Compliance
- Panel Discussion: Challenges Facing Our School Boards
- Workshops:
  - o Coalition building for Greater Community Impact
  - o Recruiting School Board Candidates

# Upcoming Webinars and Events

- AAUW National Webinar - Defending Equity in Education: DEI Rollbacks & Curriculum Bans. **Oct 28, 2025 11:30am.** Register [HERE](#)
- AAUW California Webinar - Harnessing the Power of AI. **Nov 1, 2025 10:00-11:30am.** Register [HERE](#)
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch Program - Higher Education at Risk - And How You Can Help Protect It - featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy. **Dec 3, 2025 4:00-5:00pm.** Register [HERE](#).
- AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium - **Saturday Jan 31, 2026 9:00am-12:00 noon** via Zoom. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.

**And if missed our October 7th webinar** "Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values - One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation", click [HERE](#) for the YouTube video and [HERE](#) for the slide presentation.

# Updates from AAUW National

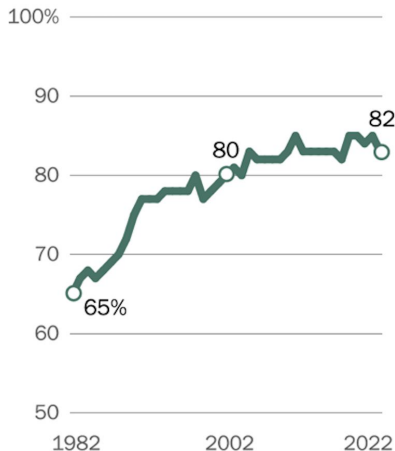
## Gender Pay Gap – Widening?

The gender pay gap has widened for the second consecutive year, continuing a stable or downward trend.

In 2024, all women working full-time, year-round were paid \$0.81 for every dollar paid to men. Pay Gap Data Shows Women Falling Behind; AAUW Steps Up with Solutions – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881

## Gender pay gap narrowed in the 1980s and '90s, but progress has stalled since

*Women's median hourly earnings in the U.S. as a % of men's median hourly earnings*



Note: Samples include employed workers ages 16 or older with positive earnings, working full time or part time, excluding the self-employed.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the Current Population Survey outgoing rotation group files (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



# Updates from AAUW National (cont'd)

## Department of Education

- Civil Rights Protections
  - Press Release: AAUW: Government Shutdown and Court-Approved Civil Rights Firings Are a Devastating Betrayal of Students – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881
  - Dept. of Education will fire half of its staff, mostly in the Office of Civil Rights. Additional layoffs related to the shutdown are coming.
- Discrimination?
  - Anticipate rules on Title IX (and Title VII) that will officially change the definition of discrimination based on...
    - EOs and other federal rule changes that alter the definition of gender to one based on unscientific findings re: sex
    - Wide application of interpretation of rulings around equality and race-based admissions in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard
- Funding-Student Loans
  - Small win: Both chambers want to keep Pell Grants for low income students at the same rate.

# Updates from AAUW National (cont'd)

## Federal Nominations

*AAUW continues to formally oppose nominees, including...*

- **Brittany Panuccio - commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**
  - Senate confirmed Panuccio on October 7th. Republican majority is now established at the agency, and is expected to carry out Trump's civil rights priorities - gutting DEI programs and rolling back protections for transgender workers.
- **Kimberly Richey - Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Dept of Education**
  - Read more:  
[AAUW-Opposes-Kimberly-Richeys-Nomination-as-ED-Assistant-Secretary-for-Civil-Rights.pdf](#)

# Updates from AAUW National (cont'd)



- No Kings Day - October 18
  - AAUW is an official partner
  - See AAUW's toolkit for background, AAUW talking points, sample social media and more
  - Toolkit can also be found on AAUW's website on the Advocacy Toolkit page





# What Can YOU Do To Resist?

Protest, Respond to Action Alerts, and/or Engage in Targeted Monthly Actions!

## Take Action: Equity & Access in Public Education

1



### STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- learn more about the important role that free and equitable access to public education has played in maintaining a functional democracy in the United States on p.4
- learn more about the AAUW CA PP School Board Project and how you can get involved by clicking [HERE](#) (and/or on the links at the bottom of this page)
- learn more about how [some pressure](#) to (re)fund education access has been impactful by reading the linked article and the update on p.3

2



### STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- tell a few people (2-10) something about the important role that public education, in general, and school boards in particular play in maintaining a functional democracy
- tell a few people (2-10) something that THEY can do to ensure that school boards in California are contributing to, not detracting from, the norms of a pluralistic democracy

3



### STEP 3: Politically-Focused: Outreach to Legislators

- Sign [THIS](#) Resistbot petition to push federal representatives to rethink their funding choices around federal public education. You can also call your federal representatives and use this petition as a script.
- Respond to our upcoming action alerts for AAUW California's "A" priority bill, CA AB 1098, which expands educational access and success for pregnant students

Every  
Contribution  
Helps!

**ACTION** →



# What Can YOU Do To Resist?

## Fear & Overwhelm Are A Common Tactic. You Can Resist By...

### Sharing the Weight

- **Build Coalitions & Community**

- Work with others who share similar values and goals so that you are working smarter, not harder, and are not duplicating efforts.
- AAUW CA is doing the same, building coalitions and working in tandem with organizations.
- You Are Not Alone! Build relationships to share emotional labor and know that you AND the work are supported when you need to take a break.

- **Engage in Collective Action**

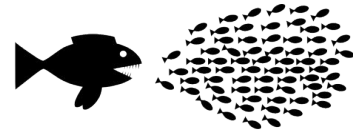
- When certain kinds of statements or actions are being targeted, it is reasonable to feel afraid. However collective action is critical. It is much harder to target the many.

### Centering Self Care

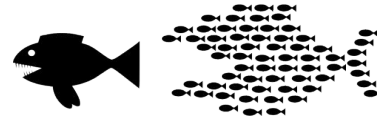
- Slow down when you need to and take care of your mental and physical well-being.
- Learn more about Resilience and Wellbeing Strategies:
  - [UC Davis Toolkit](#)
  - The Intracultural Podcast: [How Can We Survive Today's Political Moment?](#)

“Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.”

--Audre Lorde



**ORGANIZE!**



**ACTION** →



# Make A Plan!

Read the following questions. Jot some notes in response. Feel free to share your thoughts in the chat.

1. Based on all of the action opportunities that we've introduced this year, **which one are you are most interested in participating in, personally?**
  - a. Why did you choose this one?
  - b. What tools, resources, guidance, would you need to make this a reality?
  - c. Who is your community? Who can you look to for support?
  
2. Based on all of the action opportunities that we've provided today, **which one will be most interesting to your branch members?**
  - a. Why did you choose this one?
  - b. What tools, resources, guidance, would you need to make this a reality?
  - c. How will branch members provide each other with support, both in execution of the project and in terms of helping one another maintain wellbeing?

# Q&A/Open Discussion



# Next Public Policy Peer Group Meeting

**NOTE: Meetings will be held every other month on Fridays at 1:30pm starting October.**

**Meeting dates Oct 10, Dec 5, Feb 6, Apr 3, Jun 5**

Next meeting: Friday December 5th at 1:30pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87678507834>

***Information about all meetings, including slides and recordings can always be found HERE.***