



**AAUW California School
Board Project:**
Defending the Frontline of Democracy

January 31, 2026



WHY ARE WE INVOLVED?

AAUW California Supports:

- Equal access to quality public education for ALL students
- Civic instruction in all California high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information

AAUW California Public Policy Priorities

SCHOOL BOARDS: THE FRONTLINE OF DEMOCRACY

“...in a democracy, power isn’t just about who sits in Washington or state capitals. It’s about who controls local budgets, who builds the pipeline of future political leadership, and who decides what the next generation learns.”

“Every school board member we elect who believes in good governance, academic freedom, and inclusive communities is an investment in democratic leadership for decades to come. They serve with the understanding that the future we choose for our public schools is the future we choose for our country.”

Kyrstin Schuette, Founder of the School Board Integrity Project
Courier, September 3, 2025

Time**Topic**

9:00-9:10 a.m.	Opening, Overview
9:10-9:55	Keynote: Federal Challenges to California Education Laws
9:55-10:40	Presentation by the Public School Defenders Hub: How to Effectively Monitor School Board Meetings for Compliance with California Laws
10:40-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Panel Discussion: Challenges Facing Our School Boards and How Our Members Can Assist Them in Ensuring an Equitable and Quality Education for All California Students
11:30-11:35	Break
11:35-12:20	Plenary: Coalition Building for Greater Community Impact
12:20 - 12:30	Wrap-up, Final Q&A

PRESENTERS



Kathi Harper
Moderator



Richard Barrera
Keynote Speaker



Briana Mullen
Effective School Board
Monitoring

PANELISTS



**Nancy
Young**



**Ariel
Bustamante**



**Lisa
Gross**

PLENARY

Collaborating for Greater Community Impact



Diana Rohini LaVigne



Ogie Strogatz



THANK YOU

Please fill out the Survey

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONTACT US:

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