



AAUW California Lobby Days 2026 Team Leader Training



February 5, 2026



Team Leaders - Thank you!

We are deeply grateful for your willingness to take on this important role. Your leadership is key to the success of Lobby Days 2026.

Goals for Tonight's Meeting:

- Introduce a new approach to AAUW California Lobby Days
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Introduce Lobby Days Web Page and how to use it
- Provide step-by-step overview of scheduling in-district meetings

Lobby Days 2026 - A New Approach

The main strategy for Lobby Days this year is in-district meetings. A Zoom option is available for those unable to travel to district offices.

This shift was inspired by recent experience.

- Meetings with the Sacramento offices have become very hard to schedule.
- Offices are routinely overbooked.
- Offices tend to avoid committing to meetings until the last minute.
- Almost all recent meetings have been with staff rather than legislators (84 of 94 meetings in 2025).

The Redlands branch did things differently in 2025, and had remarkable results.

- They scheduled 8 in-person meetings with district offices.
- 4 of the 8 meetings were with the legislator and not just staff.

We sent a survey to all members in November, highlighting the Redlands branch experience and success. Members overwhelmingly indicated that they would like to follow the Redlands model and meet with district offices.

The Teams

This year there are 180 Lobby Days participants. They have been placed into 43 teams:

- 30 In-district teams meeting with 57 offices
- 13 Zoom teams meeting with 36 offices

Teams were formed based on:

- Member's preferred format - In-district vs Zoom
- Shared legislators
- Branch members were kept together where possible

Where a legislator had some constituents who signed up for in-district meetings and others who signed up for Zoom, the in-district team was given preference. This means some Zoom teams will meet with legislators who are not their own.

Some participants are the only member of a particular district. A few teams consist of several such people, i.e. these teams will meet with a few different offices.

Teams are as small as 2 people and as large as 16.

Team Member Roles - Core vs Optional

Team assignments were made to ensure that every participant has the opportunity to meet with both of their legislators.

- Core Members
 - Have an active speaking role in the meeting
 - May present information about branch activities and/or priority bills
- Optional Members
 - Do not typically have a speaking role, unless the core team is small
 - Are invited to join for the opportunity to meet their legislator, show AAUW's strength in the district, and support the core team
- Dual Members
 - A few people are core members on two teams - one in-district and one Zoom

Team Leader Responsibilities

Scheduling & Communication

- Schedule district office meetings directly with legislative offices
- Zoom meetings will be scheduled by Public Policy team - no action needed by Team Leader
- Serve as main point of contact with Lobby Days Committee
- Confirm team members' availability and ensure everyone has meeting details (date, time, location, or Zoom link)

Team Coordination & Preparation

- Assign Core Team Members their speaking roles. (Optional members do not speak unless the team is small.)
- If your team is large, rotate speakers between your two meetings.
- Check whether your legislator serves on committees hearing the priority bills (details to follow).
- Meet with your team in advance to confirm roles and conduct a brief dry run.

Team Leader Responsibilities (cont'd)

During the Meeting

- Lead introductions and present AAUW overview
- Guide member presentations of AAUW branch activities
- Thank the legislator for their leadership and support of shared values and AAUW priorities, as applicable
- Guide member presentations of priority bills
- Request a group photo, deliver closing thanks, and collect contact information for follow-up

After the Meeting

- Send a thank-you email
- Complete the Visit evaluation, noting any questions, concerns or requests for information raised during the meeting.

Lobby Days 2026 Web Page

This page [Lobby Days 2026 - Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values - AAUW California](#) on the AAUW California website will continue to be updated with new information as we have it

Information available now:

- Key Dates and Frequently Asked Questions
- Team Member and Leader Responsibilities
- Meeting Logistics, Do's and Don'ts, Team Leader Scripts

Coming by March 16, 2026:

- 3 priority bills we will be advancing
- Bill Talking Points, Texts, Fact Sheets
- How the legislators voted on our recent priority bills
- Committee Details (Members of committees who will hear our priority bills)

Lobby Days 2026 Web Page

Find the
Lobby Days
2026
posting on
the AAUW
California
home page



Search

Search this website



Lobby Days 2026 – Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values

This year we're introducing a new approach to Lobby Days that prioritizes in-district meetings. As we transition to

[Read More](#)

Categories

Select Category



AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy

AAUW Public Policy Committee's School Board Project held a half-day Symposium on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9:00

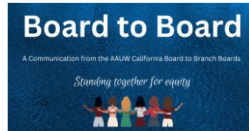
[Read More](#)



2026 Candidates

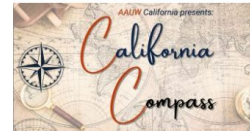
Candidates for the 2026 election are listed in order of receipt of their nomination forms. Our bylaws limit the AAUW

[Read More](#)



Board to Board – January 2026

The Board to Board is a monthly e-newsletter to branch boards and leaders from the AAUW California Board of Directors. [Read More](#)



California Compass – January 2026

Welcome to the California Compass, the monthly eblast from your state organization with a quick read of what

Lobby Days 2026 Page (cont'd)

Scroll down on the page to find the drop down menus:

Lobby Days 2026 – Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values

JANUARY 2, 2026

This year we're introducing a new approach to Lobby Days that prioritizes in-district meetings. As we transition to this model, we will also keep a zoom meeting option for members who are unable to travel to in-district meetings. This shift was inspired, in part, by our recent trials and tribulations with Lobby Days meetings in Sacramento. Over the past two years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure meetings with legislative offices in the capitol as they are routinely overbooked with meetings tending to be confirmed at the last minute, short (most last no more than 15 minutes), and held with staffers rather than legislators (84 of 94 in 2025).

This shift to in-district meetings for Lobby Days was also inspired, in part, by the experiences of the Redlands Branch, who took a different approach and saw remarkable results. By scheduling Lobby Days in-district, they were able to secure eight in-person meetings. These meetings were confirmed well in advance, were longer, and offered a much better chance of speaking directly with legislators. We highlighted their success in our November Public Policy survey, and members overwhelmingly indicated a preference for meeting with district offices.

Click on the
gray bars to
reveal a
drop-down
menu of items
you can view



Sign-up to be involved in this year's Lobby Days	+
A Few Important Notes About The New Lobby Days Model	+
Key Dates:	+
Frequently Asked Questions	+
Team Member and Leader Responsibilities	+
For Your Legislative Office Meeting	+

Calendar view showing events for February 2026:

- FEB 4 (Wed 2026): 5:30 pm AAUW San Ramon Invites You to "D..."
- FEB 6 (Fri 2026): 1:30 pm Public Policy Peer Group Meetings
- FEB 9 (Mon 2026): 6:30 pm Tech Trek Committee Meeting
- FEB 10 (Tue 2026): 7:00 pm Branch Development Peer Group Me...
- FEB 11 (Wed 2026): all-day State Leadership Team Touch Base...

Buttons: Add, View Calendar

AAUW California 2,877 followers

Follow Page

Lobby Days 2026 Page (cont'd)

Team Member and Leader Responsibilities

[Click HERE to Download Team Leader Responsibilities](#)

[Click HERE to Download Team Member Responsibilities](#)

For Your Legislative Office Meeting

Click a button below to download meeting materials

[Meeting Script for Team Leaders](#)

[Meeting Dos and Don'ts](#)

[Meeting Script – Closing](#)

[Meeting Logistics](#)

Scheduling: Zoom Meetings

- Team Leaders do not need to reach out to legislative offices.
- Public Policy Committee will schedule Zoom meetings and provide the day/time details and meeting links.
- Meeting dates: April 8-10, 2026

Scheduling: District Office Meetings

Team Leaders are responsible for scheduling District office meetings.

Use the Meeting Request form on the legislator's website

- Look for "Contact" at the top bar on the website
- On the pull-down menu under "Contact", select "Meeting Requests" or "Scheduling Requests"
- You will see a choice of "Meeting Request" and "Event Request". Select "Meeting Request"
- Fill in the requested information
 - Name of Organization: AAUW California
 - Purpose of Meeting: AAUW California Priority Legislation
 - Bill Number: TBD (2 of the bill numbers will be available week of Feb 9th)
 - Position: Support
 - Have you Met with Staff About This? No
 - Attendees:
 - Fill in all team member names - Core and Optional
 - Be sure to check the box "Attendee Is A Constituent"
 - Check the box at the bottom "Add Attendee" to add additional names

Remember - Including all of the constituent names significantly strengthens your request

Scheduling: District Office Meetings (cont'd)

Fill in the requested information

- Date/Time & Location
 - Enter the first requested date/time
 - Check the box that "Dates And Times Are Flexible"
 - Enter all other possible dates/times
 - Preferred Location Of Meeting: Select the District Office
 - Additional Comments: "Our AAUW Branch Members are excited to meet with Senator/Assemblymember (Name) and are hopeful we can get on their calendar soon."

Don't Forget to hit "Submit"!





Look for
“Contact” at
the top bar
of the
website. On
the
pull-down
menu,
select
“Scheduling
Request” or
“Meeting
Request”

Meeting & Event Request

Select
Meeting
Request



Meeting Request

Event Request

Meeting Request

To schedule a meeting with Senator Becker, please submit the following scheduling request form. Due to the large volume of requests, please allow 10 business days before following up on the requests.

CONTACT INFORMATION

10 business days before following up on the requests.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Of Organization *

AAUW California

First Name *

Amy

M.I.

Last Name *

Hom

Contact Email *

amyhom99@gmail.com

Contact Phone *

6508239661

Name of
Org:
AAUW
California



Team
Leader
Details



Back



Topic is AAUW
California Priority
Legislation



We will have 2 of the
bill numbers week of
Feb 9. If you submit
your request before
the bill numbers are
available, enter TBD



PURPOSE OF MEETING

Topic Or Purpose Of Meeting *

AAUW California Priority Legislation

Bill Number

TBD

Position?

Support

Oppose

None

Attach Supporting Documents (Upload Up To 10 Files)

BROWSE FILE(S)

Have You Met With Staff About This?

☐

Yes

☒

No

Back To Top



Attendees

Name

Amy Hom

Title

Public Policy Chair

Represents

AAUW Silicon Valley Branch



Attendee Is A Constituent



Add Attendee

List Attendees

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Chair, AAUW San Jose Branch, Constituent

Peg Carlson-Bowen, President, AAUW San Jose Branch, Constituent

State attendees name, title, who they represent, and if constituent

Team Leader
name and
details



List all of your
team members
- Core and
Optional. Note
who are
constituents.



DATE/TIME & LOCATION

Meeting Date *

03/28/2026

Meeting Time *

10:00 AM



Dates And Times Are Flexible

Additional Dates And Time

03/28/2026 anytime 9am-5pm, 04/03/2026 anytime 9am-5pm, 04/04/2026 anytime

Preferred Location Of Meeting *

Capitol Office *

Menlo Park Office *

Virtual *

Additional Comments

Our AAUW branch members are excited to meet with Senator Becker, and are hopeful we can get on his calendar soon.

Submit

Note that dates and times are flexible

Say that "Our AAUW Branch Members are excited to meet with (Name) and are hopeful we can get on their calendar soon."

Enter the first possible meeting time you would like to request

Note additional dates and times

Select the district office

Don't forget to hit "Submit"



Linking together for our mission.

Scheduling: District Office Meetings (cont'd)

Start submitting your meeting requests on February 9, 2026.

- Recommended meeting window: March 27-April 17, 2026
 - Spring recess: March 26-April 6 - Some legislators take district meetings during this time
 - During session: Legislators are often available for Thursday afternoon, Friday, and occasionally Saturday meetings
 - Alternatively, consider inviting the legislator to a branch meeting

Once your meeting is scheduled:

- **Finalize the participant list** - Confirm which of your team members can and cannot participate
- **Reach out to the Legislative Office to give them an updated list of all expected participants**

A Note to Large Teams: Some offices may not have the space to accommodate your group. In this case, you may have to split your group up - one group to meet with your Assemblymember and the other group with your Senator.

This is our first year trying this new approach, and we may not have anticipated every detail. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Scheduling: District Office Meetings (cont'd)

In addition to submitting the online meeting request form:

- Many of you have relationships with the legislative offices. If so, leverage your relationships! Reach out to a staff member you know and ask if they can help facilitate scheduling the meeting.
- Or, if you don't know anyone in the office, ask for the district director and make the same request.
- Let them know that you submitted an online meeting request form. Emphasize that you have a group of constituents that are requesting the meeting. The more constituents you have in your group, the more compelling the request.

We believe that focusing our efforts on in-district meetings will greatly improve our chances of meeting with the legislators. However, please keep in mind:

- Meetings with legislators are challenging to obtain. Despite all your best efforts, your meeting may end up being a Zoom meeting, and/or may be with the staff rather than the legislator. If so, remember that meetings with staff are still valuable and are an important way to build relationships and advance AAUW California's priority legislation.

A few words of wisdom from Cassie MacDuff of the Redlands branch who had great success last year scheduling in-district meetings.

Scheduling: District Office Meetings (cont'd)

If you run into issues scheduling your in-district meetings, please reach out to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org and we will do whatever we can to help.

Training Webinar

Mandatory Training Webinar for all Lobby Days participants

- March 23, 2026 at 7:00pm PT.
- Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OhEyiT0M0l6HKm3c1Gr-oQ#/registration

Questions?

