



AAUW California Public Policy Peer Group Bi-monthly Meeting



February 6, 2026



Agenda

- Updates from National
- Updates from State
 - School Board Project Symposium
 - LWV-SF Youth Council - Plain Policy App
 - Teen Girls Reproductive Health Awareness Project
 - Lobby Days 2026
 - CCAMP Introduction
 - Proposition 50 - Celebrate SCOTUS Decision
 - No Kings Day - March 28, 2026
 - Stand with Minnesota
 - Three Actions for February - Reproductive Justice
 - Upcoming events and webinars
- Q&A/Open Discussion



Updates from AAUW National

U.S. Department of Education opened a public comment period on proposed rule that would implement major student loan changes effective July 1, 2026.

- See AAUW statement: [AAUW Statement on Department of Education's Proposed Rule on Student Loans and Repayment – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- AAUW will be mobilizing our community to submit comments urging the Department to reject these policies which will shut women, especially black and brown women, student parents, and first-generation students, out of graduate and professional pathways.
- **Toolkit and Action Alerts coming soon** - Please share these with your branch members.

See reporting on Department of Education:

- [Government Accountability Office report](#) on the costs of layoffs and restructuring at the Department of Education (1/29/26)
- [Democracy Forward press release](#) on recent education win against Trump administration (1/21/26)
- More reporting about what's happening to the Department of Education: [NPR](#), [AP News](#), and [Center for WorkLife Law](#).



Updates from AAUW National: Dept of Ed Dismantling

Equal Pay Day 2026 is March 26

- Equal Pay Day data broken down by demographic groups will be available in March.
- Pay gap information by congressional district will be released in March. If you need this data sooner for your district, we can make a request in advance of the full release.

The next No Kings Day is March 28, 2026

- AAUW will be an official partner.

It's My Vote materials will be coming in late March

- Voter Registration Guide
- How to plan Candidate Forumx
- More voting tools

Nonpartisan Advocacy in an Election Year

- New AAUW resource on nonpartisanship: [Leading with Values: A Nonpartisan Playbook for AAUW Affiliates and Branches](#)
- Recording (can be shared with AAUW members): [Advocacy in an Election Year_Staying Nonpartisan While Taking Real Action](#)



School Board Project Symposium

The Symposium was held on Saturday January 31, 2026. Thank you to all who participated!

- 115 attendees
- 85 of 106 branches represented

The presentations, resources, and recording are posted here:

[AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy - AAUW California](#)



AAUW California Public Policy Symposium

2025-2026
AAUW
OF CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC POLICY

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT: DEFENDING THE FRONTLINE OF DEMOCRACY

📅 **Saturday, Jan 31st**
🕒 **9am - 12:30pm** Virtual

**FREE PUBLIC EVENT
REGISTER HERE**



FEDERAL CHALLENGES TO CALIFORNIA LAWS
Learn where California's protective laws against book banning, curriculum censorship, and attacks on LGBTQ+ students currently stand in light of recent Federal education policy changes
Richard Barrera, MFP – Trustee of the San Diego School Board

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MONITOR SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
Gain knowledge and skills to confidently assess school board compliance with state law and report non-compliance
Brianne Muller, MFP – Education Advocate, Public School Defenders Hub

CHALLENGES FACING CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS
Get insights from a students' advocate, parents' advocate, and current board member
Ariel Bustamante – Equity and Compliance Expert, L.A. LGBTQ Center
Lisa Gross, Ph.D. – California PTA Board of Managers
Nancy Young, MA – Murietta School Board Trustee

EFFECTIVE RECRUITING OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES
Hear how to recruit and support great candidates from a national leader on running school board campaigns
Kyrstin Schuette – Executive Director, School Board Integrity Project

COALITION BUILDING FOR GREATER COMMUNITY IMPACT
Engage with two AAUW California Public Policy Committee members from the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch who formed a successful local education coalition
Ogie Strogatz, MSPH and Laurinda Ochoa, JD, Co-Founders, Lift Up Public Schools Coalition

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
Concerned parents and guardians, educators, nonprofits, civic leaders, advocates, equity activists, legal advisors, media, local and state agencies.
AAUW members are encouraged to attend, but membership is not required.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT
aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
aauw-ca.org/public-policy

LWV-SF Youth Council - Plain Policy App

Thank you Rebecca Miller of AAUW San Francisco for giving us the opportunity to learn about this exciting tool developed by the League of Women Voters San Francisco Youth Council.

We have with us Leah Mordehai, Youth Council Co-Chair and a student at San Francisco University High School where she leads the debate team, participates in Model United Nations, and runs track and cross country. In addition to being the Youth Council chair for LWV-SF, Leah is a member of Youth Transforming Justice, interns for the City of San Francisco District 1 Office, and co-founded a nonprofit called the Slavic Youth Circle. Leah is passionate about voting rights, democracy, and world politics.



Teen Girls Reproductive Health Awareness Project

This exciting new project, brought to us by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch, will be highlighted during Lobby Days.

- OML has been working with a group of local high school students to write a Resolution, sponsored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, declaring September 2026 as Reproductive Health of Teen Girls Awareness Month.
- This Resolution will encourage high schools, colleges, public health agencies, pediatricians, and community health providers to promote educational campaigns on reproductive health topics to teenage girls.
- AAUW California is now conducting further research, with the help of these high school students and our Public Policy Interns, on potential methods to educate youth about social media misinformation related to reproductive health.
- Depending on where the research takes us, we may find an opportunity to address the social media misinformation with new legislation.



Lobby Days 2026

180 people will participate in Lobby Days. They have been placed into 43 teams:

- 30 in-district teams will be meeting with 57 offices
- 13 Zoom teams will be meeting with 36 offices

In-district teams: Team Leaders will be reaching out to district legislative offices starting February 9 to schedule meetings.

- Meetings will be held March 27-April 17.

Zoom teams: The Public Policy Committee will be reaching out to legislative offices to schedule meetings.

- Meetings will be held April 8-10.
- Meeting date/time and Zoom links will be provided by the Public Policy Committee.

Bill details: Available March 16, 2026.

Mandatory Lobby Days training webinar: March 23, 2026 at 7:00pm PT.

Lobby Days web page: [Lobby Days 2026 - Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values - AAUW California](#)

- Page will continue to be updated with new material.
- **Team Leader Training** was held last night. Recording and slides will be posted on the Lobby Days page soon.

City Council Action and Monitoring Project (CCAMP)

This new project is being launched by AAUW California to provide action-based resources that support local advocacy and relationship-building with city councils and boards of supervisors.

In 2026, we will focus our advocacy on local anti-discrimination education and protection.

Please see this [overview document](#) and join us on **February 27th at 1:30pm PT** for the launch webinar where you will learn about the CCAMP initiative, the focus in 2026, and how AAUW members and branches can participate and get involved.

Register [HERE](#).



Proposition 50 - Celebrating the Supreme Court Decision



YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR
VOICE.

BE HEARD.

Special Election Nov. 4th

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.](#)

[Press Room](#)

[2025 Bill Tracker](#)

[Take Action Now](#)

Thank you everyone for your GOTV efforts in November 2025. As you know, thanks to the collective efforts, Proposition 50 was approved by California voters in November 2025, passing with 64% of the vote. Three days after Prop 50 passed, a group of Republicans in California sued to block the use of the new map, suggesting that race was the primary factor in redrawing the new districts in violation of the Voting Rights Act. In January 2026, a district court in Los Angeles rejected these claims, and the decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Wednesday February 4, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeal, allowing California to move forward with the new map enacted by Proposition 50.

No Kings Day - March 28, 2026

The next No Kings Day is March 28, 2026. AAUW will be an official partner.

- Toolkit should be coming soon. Meanwhile, check out the toolkit from October 2025: [AAUW-No-Kings-Toolkit-Oct-18.pdf](#)



Continuing to Take Action

Thank you so much to all the branches who signed on to AAUW California letters to our U.S. Senators, urging them to conduct congressional oversight and block the unlawful transfer of education programs and responsibilities.

- **67 branches** signed on to the letters!
- **California was one of 11 states** who sent letters to AAUW National to be hand-carried to the Senate offices.
- See the letters to [Senator Padilla](#) and [Senator Schiff](#).

Stand in Solidarity with Minnesota

If you haven't yet done so, please send a statement to your Senators via Resistbot, demanding that they rein in ICE and protect our civil and constitutional rights.

- Find the statement here: [Resistbot Petition: We Demand Accountability, Stop ICE](#)
- Follow AAUW California on Resistbot [aauwcalifornia on Resistbot](#)



What Can YOU Do To Resist?

Protest, Respond to Action Alerts, and/or Engage in Targeted Monthly Actions!
Three Actions for February:

Take Action: Defend and Advance Reproductive Justice

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STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education



- If you missed it, watch the recent AAUW Silicon Valley branch webinar with [Professor Leah Litman's](#) update on legislative challenges to reproductive health and what we can do to respond. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- See the excellent program hosted by the AAUW Turlock branch exploring issues in reproductive health care and medical school training since the Dobbs decision. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- Watch the PBS documentary, "Growing Up Trans", which shares the perspectives of parents, doctors, and kids on navigating gender and identity. Find the documentary [HERE](#).
- Listen to this powerful and deeply moving podcast episode from The Daily: "[Parenting a Trans Kid in Trump's America](#)".
- Watch this very informative episode of John Oliver's Last Week Tonight about trans athletes. Find the episode [HERE](#).
- Read the article about Reproductive Freedom on p.6-7 of this issue of PP News.

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STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection



- Organize a watch-party for one of the excellent documentaries listed above. Pair your watch-party with an opportunity to have a group discussion about something you learned or something that surprised you.
- Share your favorite resources with 3-5 people via word of mouth or social media.

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STEP 3: Politically-Focused



- If you've not already done so, please [click here](#) to download the 5 Calls [application](#). Once in the app, click on...
- [Protect Funding and Access to Gender-Affirming Care \(UPDATED 12/19\)](#), and [Defend Reproductive Rights](#), to select from a menu of actions

Every
Contribution
Helps!

ACTION →

Upcoming Webinars and Events

- **CCAMP Launch Webinar - Friday February 27, 2026 at 1:30pm PT.** Register [HERE](#).

And if you missed them:

- **AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium** - see the recording, program materials and resources [HERE](#).
- **Reproductive Health Care Issues Post-Dobbs** - see the recording [HERE](#).
- **Leah Litman Speaks to AAUW on Roe Commemoration** - see the recording [HERE](#).



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 Feb 6, Apr 3, Jun 5

Next meeting: Friday April 3rd at 1:30pm

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

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

