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May 2026

Welcome to the *California Compass*, the monthly roadmap sent to every member from your state AAUW organization!



Charmen's Compass Callouts: A message from Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President

Thank you to all who joined us for our 7th online Annual Event on April 18, 2026. Whether you joined others at a watch party or viewed it solo from home, I hope you were inspired by the Town Hall participants who shared about the incredible membership success stories in their branches and states; the fantastic Branch Activity of the Year winners; our amazing Equity Champion, Senator Caroline Menjivar; and our own Sandi Gabe, this year's State Named Gift Honoree. I also hope you saw yourself as part of AAUW's stellar legacy, as told in the special video from our National Archivist, Jessica Miller (she created it at our request!). If you missed the event, you can find the whole recording, along with just the Town Hall and/or AAUW video, [HERE](#) on our website. Many thanks to our incredible Communications team for the heavy lift of producing the online event!!

Do you have a passion for AAUW and a desire to help branches and guide our state activities? You will enjoy serving on a committee! Committee work is done via email

or Zoom, so anyone, anywhere can apply. The deadline is May 15th, so don't delay. You will find the application and more information [HERE](#). (P.S. I will be the AAUW Fund chair next year. Come join my committee!)

If you haven't checked out the [AAUW 2025 Annual Report](#), I highly recommend that you do. It is, by far, one of the most transparent reports to date and will give you insight into AAUW's financial situation, as well as the meaningful impact seen across the nation last year. Without AAUW, our mother organization, none of our state or branch affiliates would exist in our communities, and AAUW needs our support. I know that we enjoy aiding our local communities, and that is important, but so is our national organization. The collective impact of supporting each other will bring about the positive change we hope to see for women and girls.

Next month will be my final Compass Callouts – my two-year term went so quickly! Thank you for being a member of this vibrant organization and part of AAUW's legacy!



National Needle: News from AAUW National

1. Educate Women, Empower Tomorrow – become an Equity Keeper today! As a monthly contributor to AAUW, you will be helping to ensure our organization is strong, resilient, and ready to take on issues affecting women and girls. Every donation helps, even \$5! Click [HERE](#) for more information, and be sure to select “monthly” on your donation form.
2. This will be another pivotal election season. AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund have a brand new nonpartisan [Voter Issue Guide](#) ready. It highlights what is at stake in 2026, from public education and higher education access to equal pay, reproductive freedom, and voting rights. Use the guide to learn more, start conversations, and ask candidates questions that matter. You can watch this webinar to learn how to use the Guide for voter education and community engagement.
3. Thanks to a very generous anonymous donor, all contributions to the Public Policy Fund (4514) between now and June 15, 2026, will be matched up to \$250,000. Help AAUW provide women with the tools they need to navigate the important decisions impacting their lives. **This is the largest matching gift opportunity in AAUW's history - [please join in!](#)**



On the Horizon: Highlights from the State Committees

Tech Trek

2026 Tech Trek is off and running with even more campers this year than last, with a current total of:

- 808 campers
- from 103 branches
- at nine camps, and
- over 300 staff volunteers (including 131 alumnae!)

The program will soon have delivered over 17,000 alumnae since 1998 (28 years)!

This AAUW California signature program survives as a testimony to its dedicated program advocates and donors of real and social capital, including branch members, alumnae and their parents, school personnel, and many others.

It does take a village, and AAUW California Tech Trek camps provide a wonderful starting point, but it is the continued community engagement afterward that is key to women sustaining their presence in STEM fields. Many branches still need advisors to work with their local alumnae and help them keep their eye on the prize through high school. Is that you?

Reach out to techtrek-ttap@aauw-ca.org if you want to help!

Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee has prepared voter guides and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) resources for the upcoming primaries. The guides are nonpartisan and present candidates' positions on policy issues that are important to AAUW, based on their voting records and public statements.

Voter guides are now available for four closely contested U.S. House races

identified by Swing Left: CA-22, CA-48, CA-13, and CA-45. A guide is also available for eight gubernatorial candidates.

This year's gubernatorial primary is especially significant due to California's "jungle primary" system, in which the two candidates receiving the most votes - regardless of party affiliation - will advance to the November general election.

You can find AAUW California's electronic Voter Guides [HERE](#). A printable handout for the gubernatorial race is available [HERE](#). Printable QR code bookmarks that direct others to the electronic guides can be found [HERE](#).

Please share the latest issue of [Public Policy News](#) with your branch, your friends, and your network.

Missy Maceyko and Amy Hom, Directors, Public Policy Co-chairs,
publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Strategic Planning

May is the month when we recognize our new Honorary Life Members, celebrate Branch Named Gift Honorees, install newly elected branch officers, and get ready for next year's programs, outreach, and advocacy. We are stronger together, so if you can help post on social media, take reservations, or assist a particular program – for example the author's luncheon or educating voters on issues - now is the time to volunteer. It seems that a few do everything in some branches, but more group participation brings us all together. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. It also brings us new and lasting friendships.

Donna Holmes, Director, Strategic Plan Consultant, strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org

Branch Development

If you are considering a board position in the future, please join us for the New Leaders' Orientation on Tuesday, May 12th, at 7 pm on Zoom. See how you can contribute to AAUW's future! Click [HERE](#) to register, and you will be sent the sign-in link.

AAUW CA Committee Sign Up Time

Want to be a part of the new version of GovTrek? Want to help plan our first in-person AAUW CA convention in eight years? Join an AAUW California Committee. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up to be a part of the future of AAUW.

Sigrid Moranz and Rebecca Gomez, Directors, Branch Development Co-chairs, branch-development@aauw-ca.org



Book Bearings: Mission-related book recommendations from the bookshelves of the state leadership team and committee members.

Share your good reads! Click [HERE](#) to enter your book recommendations. Publication priority will be given to books that relate to AAUW's mission.



Wayfinder Links: Helpful links to the AAUW California or AAUW National websites

Click [HERE](#) to find the information needed before completing the Five-Star recognition portion of the **AAUW Branch & Affiliate Annual Report**.

For the financial reporting requirement of this **mandatory** Annual Report:

- If your branch has revenue of less than \$50,000 annually, you can upload the branch's California form CT-TR-1 for fiscal Year 2025 ending 6/30/2025 to satisfy the financial reporting requirement.
- The few branches making more than \$50,000 annually, will need to provide a balance sheet and income statement. A sample is provided [HERE](#). (Note: this finance requirement is for last year.)

Both portions must be submitted together by June 30, 2026, due date.



Monthly Trivia Question:

Which revered AAUW program celebrates 24 years of existence in 2026?

Click [HERE](#) for contest rules and to enter your response.

Answer to last month's question ('Which piece of AAUW-sponsored legislation was the first bill signed by President Barack Obama?'): The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Congratulations to the contest winner: Doris Tolks.

Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you! You can reach the *California Compass* editors at cc@aauw-ca.org.

***California Compass* production acknowledgments:**

Managing Editor: Randa Blanding

Editing Team: Claudia Chandler, Shelly Johnson, Danica Ward

Communications Chair: Michelle Baer



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW.org

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

www.aauw-ca.org



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