



Why Public Policy Matters

October 28, 2020



Presentation materials:

- Download the presentation from the AAUW California website home page.
- The meeting recording, a summary Q&A document and example documents will be posted following the meeting.

Questions:

- Use the Q&A function to pose a question. We'll stop periodically to answer general questions.
- Chat has been disabled.

The screenshot shows a Zoom 'Question and Answer' window. At the top, there are two tabs: 'All questions (1)' and 'My questions (1)'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to all questions.' to the 'All questions (1)' tab. Another red dashed arrow points from the text 'Check here for answers to your questions' to the 'My questions (1)' tab. Below the tabs, a question is visible: 'Where can I download the presentation?' asked by 'You' at 09:45 AM. Below this, there is a 'Collapse all (1)' link and a response from 'AAUW California' at 09:46 AM. At the bottom of the window, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type your question here...'. A red dashed arrow points from the text 'Type your question here.' to this input field. In the bottom left corner, there are two circular buttons: 'Chat' and 'Q&A'. The 'Q&A' button is circled in red. A message on the left side of the window states 'Chat has been disabled. Use the Q&A function'. In the bottom right corner, there is a red 'Leave' button.



Why Public Policy Matters

Presented by:



Kathi Harper, J.D.

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AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair
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Sue Miller

AAUW CA Leadership Team
AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair
Roseville-South Placer Branch, Public Policy
Chair



What Is Public Policy?

- Public policy work consists of developing and implementing certain courses of action designed to advocate for an organization's policy priorities.
- Individuals and groups often attempt to shape public policy through education, advocacy, or mobilization of interest groups. The process always involves efforts by competing interest groups to influence policy makers in their favor.
- This process is necessarily *political* (“decision-making about distribution of resources or policy selection by those in power”). This is *not* the same as partisan, which involves the decision to support or oppose a particular candidate based on their party identification. We are non-partisan.



Why Does it Matter?

- Public Policy work is the most effective way to fulfill our mission to advance equity for women and girls.
- AAUW believes that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of all members of the community.
- Often – as now - we find ourselves in a time when these competing needs seem to be in a state of imbalance.
- Constitutional protection for the rights of all individuals appear to be imperiled, and progress toward equity for women and girls seems to be at a stalemate.



10 Scary Facts About the State of Women's Equality in America





1. In 2019, 12 states passed 13 new restrictions on abortion, 36 Planned Parenthood clinics were closed, and the Supreme Court will have 6 anti-choice justices in 2021.
2. At the current rate, women won't achieve pay equity with men until 2059 (AAUW).
3. In 2020, 36 states have bills placing restrictions on voting. (ACLU)
4. 33.6 million workers do not have paid sick days. (Pew Research)
5. 23.1% of women experience sexual assault while in college. (RAINN - Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network)

- 6. Women make up just 13 percent of the engineering workforce. (*National Science Foundation*)
- 7. Women make up 23.6 percent of Congress. Women of color make up less than 4.3 percent.
- 8. Black women are paid 62 cents for every \$1 paid to a white man, 54 cents for Hispanic women. (*AAUW*)
- 9. The United States is the only industrialized nation that doesn't mandate paid parental leave.
- 10. Just 37 Fortune 500 companies are led by women. (*Dun & Bradstreet*)





So What Is AAUW California Doing About it?

AAUW State Public Policy Committee:

- Sets public policy priorities (every 2 years)
- Analyzes pending legislation, determines bills to be sponsored, supported, tracked or opposed by AAUW California, lobbies legislators (every year)
- Analyzes state ballot measures, determines which to endorse or oppose (election years)
- Educates branches on public policy issues
- Encourages branches to actively engage in public policy work, provides resources, gathers data and compiles reports to state



Meet Your AAUW California Public Policy Team

Name	Area Branches Covered
Kathi Harper	San Diego, Benicia-Vallejo, Clayton, Concord
Ginny Hatfield	Los Angeles
Kit Hein	Orange County, Santa Cruz, Pleasantville, Orinda-Moraga- Lafayette
Alicia Hetman	Title IX Liaison
Amy Hom	Alameda, North Valley
Arnedra Jordan	San Luis County, Monterey County, Delta, Long Beach
Melissa Maceyko	North San Joaquin, South San Joaquin

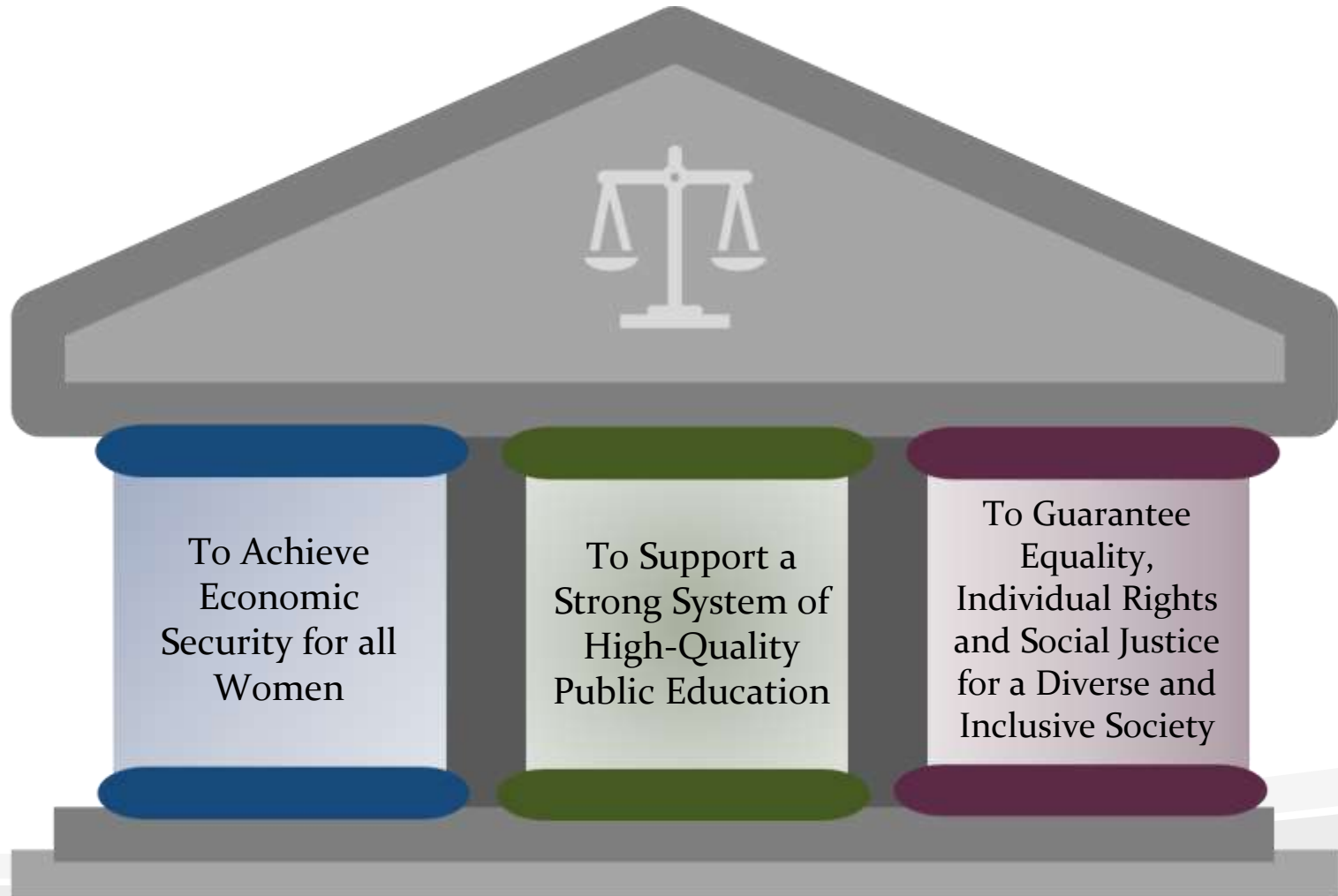
Name	Area Branches Covered
Nancy Mahr	Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Ramon, W. Contra Costa
Archana Maniar	North Coast, Redding
Sue Miller	Capital Counties, Lake Tahoe
Shelley Mitchell	Southeast, Humboldt, Online
Claire Noonan	San Francisco-San Mateo Counties, Santa Clara County



Questions?



Three Pillars of AAUW California Public Policy Priorities (2019-2021)





Economic Security

What AAUW Advocates	What AAUW Does
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pay equity, fairness in compensation, and economic justice 	Advocates for legislative changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equitable access and advancement in employment ● Vigorous enforcement of antidiscrimination statutes 	Supports gender discrimination lawsuits through the Legal Advocacy Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension viability ● Protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits 	Conducts and disseminates research to educate stakeholders and the public
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Programs that provide women with education, training, including financial literacy, and support for success in the workforce 	Start Smart and Work Smart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening programs that encourage career development and earning potential, including career and technical education ● Job training for welfare recipients and incarcerated women 	Equal Pay Day Events Fellowship Grants (AAUW Fund)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies that support work-life balance, including medical leave, family leave, quality and affordable child and dependent care 	Advocacy



High-Quality Public Education

What AAUW Advocates	What AAUW Does
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education 	Title IX Tool Kit, monitoring,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students including pre-schoolers 	Advocacy with Legislators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in STEM fields 	Tech Trek
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education, including sexual health & athletics 	Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools 	Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for adequate funding that gives women and disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs and vocational training 	Student Debt Research & Education



Social Justice

What AAUW Advocates	What AAUW Does
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions 	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Support/collaborate with other community agencies that do social justice work</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased access to quality, affordable health care, and comprehensive family planning services 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment & assault, human trafficking, hate crimes & gun violence in homes, schools and workplaces 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improving the lives of children in families living at or below the poverty level 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for United Nations programs that address human rights for women and girls 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freedom in definition of self-identity & family, and guarantee of civil rights for all forms of self-identity & all family structures 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all ● Passage of the ERA 	



Legal Advocacy

2/21/21

Last day for bills to be introduced to the legislature

Advocate reviews and selects 50-60 mission-related bills.

3/3/21

Advocate and Public Policy co-chairs confer to narrow down bills.

Committee members are each assigned 4-5 bills to analyze, recommend support, oppose or drop.

3/14/21

Committee meets, makes selections, narrows to 32-36 bills to take a position on, assign priorities



Priority Levels and Actions Taken

Actions	High	Normal	Low
Letters to all committees	X	X	X
Coordination with our coalition partners	X	X	
Testifying at committee hearings	X	X	
Visits with Staff	X	X	
Doing the process all over again if there are amendments	X		
Networking with partners	X		
Providing expertise to legislators	X		
Providing technical assistance	X		
Active lobbying: 2-Min Activist, Phone calls, e-mails	X		



AAUW California Coalition Partners

Coalition Partners

AAUW California is a member of two coalitions whose advocacy focuses on issues related to women and children, collaborating on legislation consistent with AAUW's mission and priorities.

1. [Stronger California](#) – a diverse group of over 50 nonprofit and advocacy organizations that work on issues impacting working women and families.
2. [California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom](#) (CCRF) - over 20 members focusing on reproductive rights



AAUW California Supported Bills Passed in 2020



BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION
AB 732	Regulations for “dignified healthcare” for incarcerated pregnant women before & after birth
AB 1185	Authorizes counties to establish oversight boards for law enforcement agencies
AB 1196	Prohibits law enforcement agencies from using carotid artery or chokeholds
AB 1506	Creates a DOJ Review Board to investigate police killings upon request from law enforcement agency
AB 1927	Sexual assault victims can’t be prosecuted for drug/or alcohol offense from assault trial testimony
AB 2416	Homeless students can get financial aid even if they can’t meet “satisfactory progress” requirement
AB 2762	Prohibits sale of adulterated cosmetics
AB 3070	Creates assumption of prejudice when non-white jurors are excluded
AB 3121	Creates a Task Force to study and make recommendations on reparations to Blacks for the lingering negative effects of slavery
SB 973	Requires companies with 100+employees to report pay data on employees by sex and race
SB 1383	Provides all employees right to take unpaid leave in excess of vacation time to enroll child in school and attend school activities or address school emergencies

AAUW California Supported Bills NOT Passed in 2020



BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS*
AB 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales and use taxes: exemption for menstrual hygiene products. 	D
AB 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits use of tear gas and/or rubber bullets to disperse protesters 	D
AB 1835	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents charter schools from using \$ intended for low-income students for other purposes 	V
AB 1906	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires “light duty” assignment for pregnant correctional officers 	V
AB 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases access to comm college courses for students in juvie court schools 	D
AB 2405	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a right to housing for children and families 	V
AB 3216	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires employers to grant leave up to 12 weeks for family care and medical Emergency leave to care for child 	V
SB 1257	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides “safe working environment” for domestic workers 	V
SB 1399	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates “piece-work” pay for garment workers 	D



Questions?

 What Can YOU do to Make a Difference?

WE HAVE IDEAS!





Here's What Branches are Doing

1. Helping homeless women and families
2. Working on human trafficking
3. Hosting joint presentation with League of Women Voters on ballot measures & candidate forums
4. Hosting “Get to know your legislators” inviting a staffer to be a program speaker and arranging office visits
5. Staging or joining pro-choice events
6. Walking in Women’s March events
7. Connecting with local colleges to table for Equal Pay Day, GOTV education
8. Suggesting Book Groups include a selection on white ally-ship



Members from COV Public Policy Committee table at
Mira Costa College for Equal Pay Day



Los Altos-Mountain View Branch
Annual Reproductive Freedom March



WOMEN'S MARCHES



Members from COV branch, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, and the 2017 AAUW California Board participate in the Women's March

"Forward Into the Light"



Holding Voter Registration Drives





Ukiah Branch Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the
ratification of the 19th Amendment

Working with our Coalition Partners and Legislators to Get Things Done



AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair Sue Miller at a Stronger California Reception



Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, a true champion of women's rights



Gov Brown signs the California Equal Pay Act with members of the CA Women's Caucus

Program Speaker Ideas



San Fernando Valley Branch Hosts
Assemblymember Laura Friedman



Vernita Gutierrez, Director of
Community Engagement for Planned
Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest,
Presents to the Carlsbad-Oceanside-
Vista Branch



Five Things You Can Do to Make a Difference

1. Contact your branch Public Policy Chair and volunteer to join the Public Policy Committee.
2. If your branch doesn't have a Public Policy Chair, volunteer and form a committee.
3. Select at least one Public Policy priority about which you are passionate.
4. Develop a strategic plan to get it accomplished. Identify WHAT needs to be done, WHO will do it, and WHEN will it be completed.
5. Ask your Program Chair or President to schedule a Public Policy presentation – educate your branch on why:

PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS!



Questions?



Upcoming Webinars

11/9/2020	Keeping in Touch With Your Tech Trekkers - and Why You Should Many branches keep in touch with their former Tech Trekkers. Some former campers have even built their own “Keep in Touch” groups. Learn how to track down and guide these young women through high school and college and, even, into their careers. Keeping your former Tech Trekkers close allows them to help you at branch events, mentor new campers, and keep in the loop about junior and senior counselor positions. You will be surprised how much your branch and these young women can help each other.
11/18/2020	Work Smarter Not Harder. Quality collaborations will benefit your branch and increase your influence. A collaboration isn't just about sharing work. It's about sharing resources. By investing your branch's time in building good relationships now, you can make them pay off for years to come.
12/12/2020	How to manage your Speech Trek contest on ZOOM. Learn how to set up Zoom to support your contest. We'll cover recording, managing contestants and judges for a successful event.