



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

**January 31, 2026**



# WELCOME

- ❑ There will be no sound until the webinar begins.
- ❑ *To ask a question of the presenters, use the Q&A option.* The presenters will stop periodically to answer questions or address them after the webinar.
- ❑ A link to a brief survey will be sent to attendees after the session ends.
- ❑ The slides and a video recording of the presentation will be available a few days after the webinar on the AAUW California website.



# 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.”<sup>4</sup>

“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:**

[webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org)