

Political and Nonpartisan AAUW History & Public Policy Priorities

AAUW is nonpartisan but has always been political.

AAUW:

- Endorses legislation
- Takes political stands, dictated by member-adopted Public Policy Priorities
- Influences legislative debate on critical issues affecting women and girls
- Works with any policymaker from any party who cares about our priority issues and shares our goals

1898			1935		1964		1971				
	First legislative committee, on educational legislation, established.		Supported legalizing physicians' dispensation of contraceptive information.		Members work to pass Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.		Convention resolutions support Equal Rights Amendment, legalization of abortion, and improved conditions for migrant farm workers.				
		Pay equity efforts begin with report on U.S. Civil Service job classifications and compensation. 1913		AAUW member Rep. Chase Going Woodhouse (D-CT) introduces the first proposed federal equal pay legislation. 1945		AAUW report documents sex discrimination against women in higher education and spurs distribution of affirmative action guidelines to colleges and universities. 1970					
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1972		1988		1994	(2014
	Instrumental in passage of Title IX.		Instrumental in passage of Civil Rights Restoration Act.		nelps Violence omen Act.	Worked with administration to enact critical pay equity executive orders.
	Higher Education Amendments includes AAUW proposals for equity in financial aid. 1986		Advocated for passage of Family and Medical Leave Act. 1993		Provided critical support resulting in President Obama signing Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. 2009	

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AAUW Public Policy Priorities

Public Policy Prioritization Process and Levels

- Establish national action issues with AAUW members
- Educate members on background of focus areas and advocacy efforts
- Use national and state priorities to determine advocacy efforts on state and local issues



Current Priority Positions

Support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity

Achieve economic security for all women

Guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society



What You Can Do as Members

AAUW Lobby Two-Minute Advocacy Corps & state Toolkits Activist lobbying efforts Call and meet Educate Letters to the with your friends, family Editor officials and voters



Member Advocacy

DO

- Remain nonpartisan
- Work on issues guided by our values and mission
- Engage with candidates and elected officials from all major parties equally
- Encourage voter registration for everyone, regardless of their political persuasion

DON'T

- Endorse or raise funds for partisan candidates
- Encourage voter registration for a particular party
- Share AAUW member lists with campaigns or parties
- Coordinate any election activity with a campaign or political party
- Support anything in conflict with AAUW Public Policy Priorities

Public Policy Advocacy Resources

Two-Minute Activist & Current Priority Legislation: <u>https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/</u>

Current Policy Priorities: https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/

Advocacy Toolkit: https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/

Letters, Comments, Testimony & Legal Briefs: https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/





