

# Basis for Public Policy Priorities

AAUW California's Biennial Public Policy Priorities are consistent with national AAUW Public Policy Principles which can be found on the website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

Legislative activism has a long history in AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to the critical issues of the times. In 2020 we celebrate passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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**Promoting  
Equity and Education  
for  
Women and Girls**



## AAUW California Public Policy Priorities 2019 - 2021



# AAUW CA Public Policy Action Priorities

## 2019 - 2021

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. AAUW CA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and member support. No order of importance is implied in the listing of the priorities.

### **To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW CA advocates:**

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation and benefits, and economic justice.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, through vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes, including age discrimination.
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including public pension viability, and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits.
- Programs that provide all women with education, including financial literacy, training, and support for success in the work force.
- Strengthening programs that encourage career development and earning potential, including career and technical education, access to postsecondary education, job training for welfare recipients and training for incarcerated women.
- Policies that support work-life balance, including medical leave, family leave, quality and affordable child and dependent care.

### **To support a strong system of high quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:**

- Vigorous enforcement of federal Title IX (Education Amendments of 1972) and all other federal and California civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students, including preschoolers.
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education and fields of study, including sexual health education and athletics.
- 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 other public schools.
- Support for adequate funding that gives women and other disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs and vocational training.

### **To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW CA advocates:**

- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care, and comprehensive family planning services.
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, human trafficking, hate crimes, and gun violence, in homes, schools, workplaces and communities.
- Strengthening California programs, including affordable housing, that improve the lives of women, children and families living at or below the poverty level.
- Support for United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.
- Freedom in definition of self-identity and family, and guarantee of civil rights for all forms of self-identity and all family structures.
- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all. Continued support for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.