

We have had more than a month to digest the Dobbs opinion delivered by SCOTUS to overturn Roe vs Wade. How does this fit into our AAUW positions? First, a look at definitions:

Political - a decision made about distribution of resources or policy selection by those in power.

Partisan - a decision to support or oppose a particular candidate based on their party identification.

AAUW is a non-partisan organization, but we do take political positions on issues as stated in our National Priorities: To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.

I encourage each of you to listen to all or part of a fascinating and instructive webinar led by Kathi Harper, JD, a retired prosecutor, adjunct Law Professor, and Director and Public Policy Chair of AAUW CA as she led us through the historical legal understanding of how the six Justices arrived at the Dobbs decision. She covered these topics:

What the opinion does – and does not – say

What the opinion means for California

What the post-Dobbs landscape looks like for women

What can – and can't – be done to counter the effects of this dramatic opinion

This YouTube Webinar is 1.5 hours long so if you are short on time you might fast forward to (1:17:58) skipping the legal history and listening to her last two points: Post-Dobbs and her suggested AAUW response. Kathi is straight forward in saying California's laws may not be as iron-clad as hoped. Her main points:

Educate yourself and others about our representatives' stance on this issue.

Volunteer to help Get Out The Vote by writing letters or postcards about the importance of voting, especially relevant in abortion restrictive states.

Donate, Donate, Donate to organizations that have been involved in this issue - such as Planned Parenthood and League of Women Voters.

AAUW CA Public Policy will be keeping us informed about the new California laws we are supporting. And VOTE!