

Public Policy May 2023

Imagine yourself trying to arrange Zoom meetings with 69 California legislators or one of their staff. Then imagine yourself arranging 20 or more groups of 3 or 4 members of AAUW CA--all 120 of us who committed to being a part of Public Policy's LOBBY DAYS! Mind boggling, isn't it? Needless to say, there were a few hiccups in the grand plan, but Lobby Days was a success and needs to be repeated each year. This was our chance—AAUW's members' chance—to ADVOCATE for Social Justice with those in Sacramento who make California laws.

The April Twig highlighted Lobby Days and my first-timer experience. I'll take part again next year and ask that you become a helper in our 2024 Lobby Days exercise to present and uphold AAUW's priorities for women and girls.

The following is an abbreviated account of the results of Lobby Days submitted by Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom, and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee.

"While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves - 6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some had spoken to branches in their districts; others were familiar with our public policy priorities and expressed alignment and support for them; and a handful were appreciative of the background we provided about our mission and programs. A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - [AB 1394](#), [SB 287](#) and [AB 549](#)— was generally favorable, especially the [two social media bills](#). Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. [AB 549](#) needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with [CEDAW](#), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here:"

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

AND: Here is your chance to vote on the updates to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. Members gave input, the state Public Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes. Make sure your voice is heard in the final vote. Voting began April 22 and closes on May 13th.

Important links: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>.

[2023 AAUW California Nomination & Election Process - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](#)

If you do not receive an email with your link to vote:

- Check your spam/junk folder to see if it's there. The mail will be from siteadmin@aauw-ca.org.
- Search in your email for the subject: **2023 AAUW California Election Ballot**
- If you still are unable to find the email, send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org for assistance.