

September 2022

When Women VOTE, We CHANGE the CONVERSATION and CREATE ACTION!

AAUW is divided into three components with each addressing one of the concerns in our Mission Statement. With our 170,000+ members in 1,000 branches across the country, we have long been a powerful ADVOCATE at local, state and national levels on education, social security, sex discrimination, and most recently and strongly - reproductive rights. The recent US Supreme Court decision on abortion (see Dobbs) has galvanized action in many states across the nation, including California. Governor Newsom signed AB1666 after the legislature swiftly passed it to help an out of state woman who travels to California for an abortion because her own state could sue her or even put her in jail. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, that will be on the November 8 ballot goes a step further by protecting a woman's right to make personal medical choices. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom including the fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

This is your AAUW CHANGING the CONVERSATION and CREATING ACTION.

The EDUCATION Foundation funds community action projects, grants, and fellowships for exceptional women scholars and scientists and supports their RESEARCH into gender equity, culture diversity and education, along with other topics. AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients. (49 in California). Notable past recipients of these projects include Susan Sontag, writer and intellectual, Judith Resnik, second woman in space, Hanna Gray, first woman president of a major university and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and oh, yes, Marie Curie. In 1920 the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (predecessor to AAUW) helped raise the \$100,000 needed to buy the one gram of radium, an element Marie Curie had discovered, but that she also needed in order to continue her research!

This is your AAUW CHANGING the CONVERSATION and CREATING ACTION.

So how does this information relate to Your Vote? Congressional races are particularly important this November. After the 2020 Census, redistricting changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be keenly aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – now is not too soon to become informed about candidates vying for Congress in your district. As you focus on your key rights, do reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues.

When Women VOTE, We CHANGE the CONVERSATION and CREATE ACTION.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

- AAUW CA website: Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.
- CA Secretary of State website: Voter info and Ballot Initiatives.
- State and County Voter guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.
- We Draw the Lines CA: maps of newly re-drawn congressional districts.
- 2022 California redistricting: Look up your new districts - CalMatters

This is your AAUW CHANGING the CONVERSATION and CREATING ACTION.