

Public Policy

Activities for AAUW Members

By Jeanne Delp

March—in like a lion, out like a lamb? March is a busy month for AAUW members!

OPEN BOOKS—OPEN DOORS The School Board Project is still going strong! AAUW provides information on how to address school boards when the topic of book banning is on the agenda as has happened in several districts in California. Do look at the School Board Project Tool Kit provided by our AAUW-CA Public Policy. It is so well constructed that Kathi Harper, chair, School Board Project, was asked to present a Zoom session to AAUW members in several states. Information on the role of local school boards and their limitations, as well as the responsibility of our State Board of Education (SBE) as the controlling structure and policy-making body of the state for public education, is found in the following well-written article by AAUW member Seena Trigas.

Please copy or click the websites.

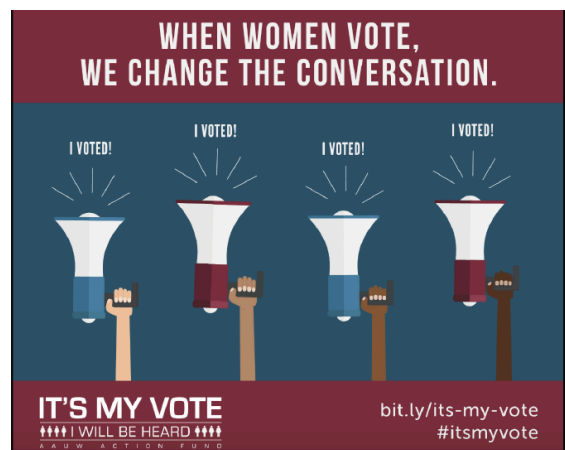
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2024/01/public-policy-news-february-2024.pdf/>

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/school-board-project-toolkit/>



“Diverse stories provide kids with different perspectives and help them see how others think and feel.” —Marley Dias, Read Across America Ambassador 2021-23, NEA

VOTING--We know you know the California Primary Election will be March 5. We also know you voted, because **When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation**, but did you know that a low turnout in California’s elections is typical? “Low participation in primaries is a persisting problem in California” . . . with 2014 ‘winning’ by having the record-low turnout of about 4.46 million people, or 25.1% of the registered voters casting their ballots. (Tom Coulter-*Palm Springs Desert Sun*) Speculations about reasons for this low turnout range from the lower turnout for voters of color, low-income voters and younger voters, to just plain apathy. Various solutions have been provided. For instance, California Motor Voter Law allows 16- and 17-year-olds to automatically pre-register



to vote when they apply for a driver license at the Department of Motor Vehicles. AND the League of Women Voters regularly provides for student registration at the local high schools and most recently, Ohlone College. AND the AAUW has a **Tool Kit** for just such an activity! Please paste or click on the link.

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-registration/gotv-tool-kit/>



The following is provided by the National Women's History Museum:

"Susan B. Anthony was a teacher, a speaker and an American civil rights leader who fought for rights for African Americans and women. She spoke out against slavery and fought for suffrage, or the right to vote for African Americans and women. Susan cast her vote in the 1872 presidential election and was arrested for doing so. Women were finally given the right to vote in 1920 with the

19th amendment. Although Susan B. Anthony had passed away in 1906, it is sometimes called the Susan B. Anthony amendment in honor of her arduous work and steadfast beliefs regarding suffrage."

Thank you, Susan, and all the women whose voices and votes changed the conversation about all of the rights for women!

To quote William Marshak, publisher of the *Tri-City Voice*, "While national politics may be beyond local control, the strength of our system relies on a solid foundation of local government. It is through this base that we, the people, can exert influence on the actions of representatives at regional and national levels."