

National, State, and Local Priorities for AAUW

By Jeanne Delp

New members, longtime members, active members and baby-step members, here is a quick review of why you are a member of a more than 140-year-old national organization that proudly advocates for WOMEN! Your membership in our local branch—Fremont AAUW—is a tangible expression of your concern that WOMEN—locally, nationally as well as internationally—be consciously elevated to prominent places of relevance within society, be it in the home, the workplace, the community, or a national / international stage. In the parlance of today's younger generations: AAUW has your back. AAUW has your interests as its purpose. Members, your activities, your involvement, your dedication may have a direct effect on your life, on the lives of WOMEN you know personally—daughters, granddaughters, partners, friends, and that darling little baby girl you have welcomed into your family.

When asked what AAUW does, here is your elevator speech that is easy to memorize:

AAUW ADVANCES GENDER EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

Research provides the basis for our priorities; from there we educate members and society about our concerns, and then AAUW advocates for the changes that will, in turn, change the research results.

OUR PRIORITIES:

Removing Bias from Education

Startling inequalities persist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit our opportunities. Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary.

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

Fighting for Fair Pay & Economic Equity

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.

Advancing Women in Leadership

- Proportional appointment to publicly-held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

Both our National and California websites provide excellent information, examples, and activities that will astound, educate and encourage you to voice your concerns. AND don't forget our local website. Get to know Fremont's activities, your fellow members, and where you can find the information that will help set your journey towards Advocacy for Women.

National AAUW

<https://www.aauw.org>

California AAUW

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/>

AAUW Fremont (CA) Branch

<https://fremont-ca.aauw.net>