

Public Policy:

Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter

By Nancy Major, member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

(Article has been edited for length)

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session, by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 - Google Sheets](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be many opportunities to use this legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long-standing human rights and civil rights protections.

Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

YOU can help Fremont AAUW fulfill this call to action:

- The 2025-2027 Public Policy priorities are being considered even as you read this. All members will have a chance to vote on their acceptance in May. Your vote counts!
- Lobby Days are scheduled for in person (Sacramento) April 8, or online (Zoom) April 9. This is your chance to speak in favor of an AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted legislation scheduled for a vote in an upcoming Legislature session. Check out last year's success at: [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 – Google Sheets](#).
- Participate in one or more of our many different interest groups. Members describe their activities as creating a community of friends, developing deep connections with others, enlightening, inspiring, a feel-good experience, and yes, FUN! We'll look for you at our next function.