



# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## WHERE IS THAT?

### Find All Things Public Policy in Google Workspace

You can now find everything you need in one Google Workspace--set up just for you! This workspace will include an archive of Public Policy News (beginning next month, because this is issue #1), past branch newsletter articles, state committee member profiles, branch liaisons, and important resources and links (like a [Policy Leader Resource Manual](#) from AAUW National).

Click [HERE](#) to check out your public policy resources!

## WHO IS THAT?

### How to Connect with Your Branch Liaison from the State Public Policy Committee

Each AAUW California branch has a specific state Public Policy Committee member liaison. To find your liaison [CLICK HERE](#). You can also get to know them a bit better through checking out their individual profiles, which we will be releasing in October.

## CA LEGISLATION

### What's happening with supported bills?

Unsure of what bills we're supporting in California in this legislative cycle and/or how they've fared in the Senate/Assembly this year? Click on the bill tracker link on the sidebar to get the latest updates. This year's California legislative cycle is winding down, so we're working hard with our coalition partners to get our bills to the governor's desk. Be sure to check your inbox for action alerts from us in the coming weeks so you can help us get them across the finish line! Click [HERE](#) if you would like to sign up for **ACTION ALERTS** on AAUW California's priority legislation in the future.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Thursday 09/21 @ 7pm PT Webinar

**School Board Project:** "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!" Click [HERE](#) to register.

### Wednesday 10/04 @ 2pm PT Virtual Meeting

First bimonthly meeting for branch public policy chairs. Amy and Missy will provide updates and answer questions. Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

## TO DO:

- Sign up for CA legislative Action Alerts [HERE](#).
- Register for the School Board Project Webinar [HERE](#).
- Check out your Google Workspace Resources [HERE](#).

**BILL TRACKER**

# SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

Learn More About the SBP

The School Board Project (SBP) is creating quite a buzz! In August, Committee Day attendees, who came from all California state committees, voted this project as one of the state's most exciting undertakings in the coming year. We're excited, too. The SBP gives you tools to address a problem that is being faced by communities all across the state and the nation: attempts to elect regressive school board members who support book banning and curricula censorship.

If you want to know more, check out the SBP webinar on September 21st. At this webinar, entitled, "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!" Kathi Harper, School Board Project Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help.

If you want to get started on some advance reading, we recommend checking out the Unite Against Book Bans toolkit [HERE](#).

## EDUCATION & ACTION

Public Education Paired with Action Items



We have received an increase in requests for action items. WE HEAR YOU! We will be rolling out a new social media campaign to educate AAUW California members, and the wider public, about the bills that we are sponsoring and advancing in California. This campaign will include an overview of the problems that each bill is addressing and how the bill aligns with our priorities as well as specific directions and tools for you to take action to help them advance. You may get some Action Alerts from us as this legislative season winds down, but this specific campaign will focus on priority bills in the next legislative season, launching in Spring 2024. Be sure to [sign up for Action Alerts](#) if you are interested!

CONTACT US AT [PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG](mailto:PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG)

## Advancing Gender Equity is Advancing Environmental Sustainability (and vice versa)

By Missy Maceyko, Co-Chair, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

After a year of wild weather in California, many of us may be thinking more about climate, environment, and sustainability. How does our concern with the weather relate to AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities? Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability. The inverse is also true.

The United Nations sustainable development goals, adopted in 2015, seek to push all countries to act to protect the planet, ensure widespread prosperity, and promote peace. Achieving gender equality, goal number five, is a crucial element in this overall strategy.

We know that having greater gender diversity in leadership improves organizations. One of AAUW California's public policy focus areas is increasing women in leadership positions. However, advancing this goal can also have positive climate impacts. The UN has found that having greater gender diversity in climate discussions leads to improved outcomes on climate-focused policies and projects. This is just one case in which we can see how sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside advancing AAUW California's public policy priorities, can be important for achieving sustainable development goal 13, creating more impactful climate action.



Data also shows us that (un)sustainable production and consumption patterns, which harm the environment, tend to be gendered, with "green" choices being widely feminized. While this is a global trend, we see this in popular portrayals of more planet-friendly consumption choices in the United States, as well, such as veganism, which tends to be marked as more "feminine" and less "masculine." This example shows us that sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside AAUW California's overall public policy mission of advancing equity for women and girls, is also important for achieving sustainable development goal 12, which focuses on creating more planet-friendly and responsible production and consumption patterns.

Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa. In advancing AAUW California's public policy goals, and expanding the rights of all women and girls, we can help create the conditions for greater justice and inclusion, economic parity, and environmental viability, all at the same time.