

AAUW Public Policy Resources

The following are resources that can be utilized and shared with both the Public Policy Committee (PPC) and, if applicable, the membership at large. The more we share advocacy efforts, the more our branches become involved in the Public Policy efforts.

MICHIGAN AAUW- <https://www.aauwmi.org> Click on “Public Policy” on top tool bar.

- A. **AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Priorities 2023-2025.** This document is updated every two years. Use this document to guide your advocacy efforts.
- B. **AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Director- Ruth Brown**
 - 1. Cell or text (517) 398-0116; travelgirl4@comcast.net
 - 2. Ruth can assist you and your branch to engage in Public Policy work with a goal to keep members abreast of issues and actively work with your representatives to pass laws that will benefit women and girls.
- C. **AAUW of Michigan Government Relations Coordinator- Mary Pollock**

Mary represents AAUW of Michigan’s priority legislative issues at the Capitol including education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity; economic self-sufficiency for all women; and equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society.

 - 1. Cell or text (517) 351-7292; pollockm@comcast.net
 - 2. Facebook- AAUWMI Lobby Corps- By “liking” this Facebook page you will receive up-to-date information on Michigan legislation that aligns with the AAUW Public Policy priorities.
 - 3. Monthly Virtual Lobby Corps Zoom/Teleconferencing meeting.
Usually, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm EST. At least one PPC member should attend these very educational and inspiring meetings and report to the branch Public Policy Committee.

4. Government Relations Coordinator Reports-

- a. Mary Pollock's monthly legislative activity update is sent to Public Policy chairs and interested members when signed up for the Virtual Lobby Corp meeting. Found after the ZOOM link, Mary presents valuable information and links to legislation that is being followed by AAUWMI. Share with PPC and possibly branch membership. Urge all Public Policy Committee members to get on this e-mail list.
- b. Access Mary's reports (Capitol report, updates, monthly reports, annual reports and archived reports) under the sidebar to Government Relations Coordinator. Good information to share with the Public Policy committee and perhaps branch membership.

D. Connect with State of Michigan Government. (Also links to US Reps)

1. Michigan Citizen's Guide to State Government (Hint: ask your local representative or senator for a copy.)
2. Michigan Legislature Web Site/Find Your Legislator. Access up to date legislation at www.legislature.mi.gov This is an all-purpose legislative website that contains all bills, status of bills, committees, and much more.
3. Michigan House Directory 2023-2024
4. Michigan Senate Directory 2023-2024
5. Tips on writing to Michigan State Legislators
6. Find Governor Gretchen Whitmer
7. Connect with US Legislators

E. AAUW Public Policy Resources- info from National AAUW available on the AAUWMI Public Policy site:

1. Advocacy Toolkit
2. "Take Action"
3. Two-Minute Activist
4. AAUW Policy Leaders 2022-2023 Resource Manual

NATIONAL AAUW- <https://www.aauw.org> Click on “Take Action” to find information.

Our National organization monitors and recommends action on legislation contained in our biennial Public Policy Priorities. They have a plethora of information on these issues so local branches can guide their local priorities and become informed on issues that impact women and girls.

A. National AAUW Public Policy Priorities 2023-2025

B. Two-Minute Activist- Urge PPC members and if possible, the membership at large, to sign up: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist>. This gives AAUW members a chance to “take action” by being alerted to national legislation.

C. AAUW Policy Center- “Where We Stand”

<https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/> Researched and up-to-date information on the issues covered in the national AAUW Public Policy Priorities. Copy off the “Quick Facts” and provide them to the PPC members to help in establishing local priorities. Wonderful information to include in branch communications such as monthly newsletters or e-mails. This information is helpful in writing a letter to the editor or contacting a legislative representative. AAUW’s positions and advocacy “Quick Fact” sheets are included on these major issues:

1. *Where We Stand: Economic Security-* AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
 - a. Equal Pay
 - b. Paycheck Fairness Act
 - c. Retirement Security
 - d. Paid Leave
 - e. Workplace Harassment
 - f. Health care
2. *Where We Stand: Education and Title IX-* AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, including vigorous enforcement of Title XI.
 - a. Student Debt
 - b. School Vouchers
 - c. STEM Education

- d. Sexual Harassment and Violence in Schools
 - e. Title IX
- 3. *Where We Stand: Civil Rights*- AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.
 - a. Voting Rights
 - b. Equal Rights Amendment
 - c. Human Trafficking
 - d. Reproductive Rights
 - e. LGBTQ+ Rights

D. **Advocacy Toolkit**- <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/> National AAUW has compiled a set of resources to guide you in advocating for women and girls through a variety of tactics and actions. *Make Your Voice Heard!* Detailed information on topics such as:

1. How to Hold a Meeting with Your Elected Officials
2. How to Organize a Candidate Forum
3. How to Organize an Effective Petition Campaign
4. How to Work with the Media
5. When to Write a Letter to the Editor versus an Op-Ed

Advocacy ideas for your local Public Policy committee from networking with other AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Chairs.

Please contact AAUW of Michigan Public Policy Director, Ruth Brown, for notifications of quarterly meetings with Public Policy Chairs in other AAUW of Michigan branches. **Please add your advocacy ideas to this list!**

- ✓ Conduct non-partisan candidate forums for local offices including city, township, county, school board and state and national legislative races.
- ✓ Conduct non-partisan voter registration opportunities at your local high school and/or community college. Info and materials can be found at www.Mi.gov/vote .

- ✓ Meet with your local school Superintendent and attend school board meetings to share that AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity including vigorous enforcement of Title IX.
- ✓ Make a list of local representatives and their contact information. Share with PPC perhaps the entire branch.
- ✓ Meet with local representatives when they host their local “office hours”. Send out a group e-mail to inform PPC and membership of local office hours.
- ✓ Urge branch members to sign up for AAUWMI Lobby Corps on Facebook to keep up to date on legislation.
- ✓ Keep in touch with our Government Relations Coordinator, Mary Pollock, to monitor key legislation.
- ✓ Urge PPC members and membership at large to sign up for Two-Minute Activist <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist>.
- ✓ Write a Letter to the Editor or an Op-ed to advocate for AAUW priorities.
- ✓ Become involved in Equal Pay Day efforts.
- ✓ Organize a “Rapid Responder Alert” system within your entire branch. When key issues are to be voted on by representatives, the Rapid Responder team informs branch membership of the Bill, gives background information, and provides information on how to contact their representative and make their voices known. Branch wide ADVOCACY!