

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. We firmly believe in the separation of church and state.

AAUW supports **constitutional protection for the civil rights** of all individuals, including the right to privacy. We believe in choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.

We support a **fair, balanced, and independent judiciary**. We oppose all forms of discrimination. We support affirmative action to improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. We affirm our commitment to passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

AAUW believes that **quality public education** is the foundation of a democratic society. We advocate equity, academic freedom, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education. We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty. AAUW promotes the **economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons**. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, a livable wage, reduction of poverty, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, and quality affordable health care; freedom from violence; and a clean and healthful environment. We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to community. We support meaningful campaign finance reform that will promote equitable participation and representation.

AAUW values and is **committed to the arts** and humanities, which develop and enhance our pluralistic cultural heritage.

AAUW believes that **global interdependence** requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We

advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these issues. We support a **strengthened United Nations** and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and **Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women** and subsequent declarations. We affirm our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of **All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**. We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.

Proposed 2008-2010 BIENNIAL ACTION PRIORITIES

Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates

- Measures that promote educational standards that take into consideration differences in learning styles and abilities, language proficiency, and age appropriateness
- Parent, community, and school input on educational objectives that aim to help students rise to their highest level of competency without government imposed sanctions
- Full funding for mandated educational programs, including special education.
- Measures that include higher analytical thinking skills
- Measures that vigorously enforce Title IX and all other civil rights pertaining to education
- Measures that provide adequate and equitable funding for quality public education and that oppose the use of federal and state funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education
- Increased support for, and access to, higher education for women, girls, and disadvantaged populations.

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates

- Enforcement of laws that promote pay equity and prohibit workplace discrimination
- Measures that empower women by including education, training and life long learning as essential tools in achieving economic self-sufficiency
- Providing access to quality affordable and available dependent care
- Strengthening programs, including social services, that improve post-secondary education, address, career development, and earning potential
- Honoring prior private and public pension commitments
- Social Security and Medicare reform that guarantees improved security for women and all low-wage workers.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates

- Vigorous defense and expansion of civil and constitutional rights
- Enforcement of laws and administrative procedures that protect women and children from stalking, violence, fear of violence, and sexual and emotional harassment
- Measures that ensure access and equity in health care coverage
- Measures that promote personal responsibility and choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Equal access to the political process regardless of race, gender or financial status
- Enforcement of laws and administrative procedures that protect an individual's right to privacy
- Support of United Nations programs that address human rights and concerns of women and girls.

**Spread the Word about the
AAUW Public Policy Program**
[Download and print the public policy brochure](#) and distribute it at branch and coalition meetings, voter education events, community gatherings, or anywhere else where women gather. Up to 10 copies of the brochure are available to members free of charge from the AAUW HELPLINE helpline@aauw.org. For additional copies, contact Shop AAUW at 800/225-9998. For more information, call 800/326-AAUW (2289) or e-mail voter@aauw.org.

Minnesota Elected Officials

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Room 130 State Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155
651-296-3391

Senator/Representative _____ District ____
(DFL) State Capitol
(R) State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

AAUW Minnesota Contacts:

Co-Presidents

Mary Parcheta

11345 Neal Avenue H.; Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-9432 mparch01@aol.com

Karen Kirkwood

13210 Downey Trail; Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-891-2876 karenskirkwood@cs.com

Public Policy

Char Kahler

1966 50th Street; Fairmont, MN 56031
507-235-9837 chark@kaco.net

Visit www.aauwmn.org

National AAUW Public Policy Staff

Lisa Maatz

Director of Public Policy and Government Relations
Ph: 202/785-7720 maatzl@aauw.org

Tracy Sherman

Government Relations Manager
Ph: 202/785-7730 shermant@aauw.org

Seth Chase

Field Director
Ph: 202/785-7786 chases@aauw.org

Lecia Imbery

Grassroots Coordinator
Ph: 202/785-7704 imberyl@aauw.org

Anne Hedgepeth

Legislative Assistant
Ph: 202/785-7793 hedgepetha@aauw.org

United State Elected Officials

President

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20500
202/456-1111

E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Amy Klobuchar

www.klobuchar.senate.gov
BHW Federal Building
1 Federal Drive #298
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111
Local Phone: 612-727-5220
Local FAX: 612-727-5223

Capitol phone: 202-224-3244
Capitol FAX: 202-224-1152

Senator Norm Coleman

www.coleman.senate.gov
2550 University Avenue W. #100
St. Paul, MN 55114
Local Phone: 651-645-0323
Local FAX: 651-645-3110
Capitol Phone: 202-224-2641
Capitol FAX: 202-224-1152

Representative _____ District ____

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: 1-800-839-5276

Secretary of the **U.S. Senate** 202-224-2115

www.senate.gov

Clerk of the **U.S. House** 202-225-7000

www.house.gov

Visit www.aauw.org or e-mail VoterEd@aauw.org
Call : 1-800/326-AAUW (2289), FAX: 202/872-1425.
Voter Education Hotline: 1-800-608-5286
Download AAUW's Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout
from <http://www.aauw.org/onevote>
or Call 202-785-7793
Sign up for AAUW Action Network's Two-Minute
Activist at <http://capwiz.com/aauw/mlm/signup>



AAUW



Minnesota PUBLIC POLICY Program Action Priorities 2008-2010