

AAUW Iowa Public Policy Program 2025-2026

The Public Policy Principles underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education , and advocacy. They establish principles for action on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts. They guide the work of the AAUW's federal priorities and that of AAUW state organizations and branches on state and local issue advocacy efforts.

AAUW positions are shaped by our commitment to equity by being nonpartisan , evidence-based, experience-driven, inclusive , and intersectional. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status or socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals. AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to advance racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every policy initiative.

AAUW Iowa Public Policy Principles complement that of AAUW and serve as a focus for educational and advocacy work of our members.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: AAUW Iowa advocates:

1. Equitable investment in high quality public education, early childhood through postsecondary; including full funding of mandated programs, as well as programs such as counseling and the visual and performing arts all provided by degree-qualified professionals.
2. Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and other national and state civil rights laws that pertain to education and that prohibit discrimination or harassment at all levels of education; making schools safe for all students, regardless of gender, race, religious affiliation, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
3. Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education, home schooling, and charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools.
4. Affordable public community college, college, and university tuition and provision of programs that help women or disadvantaged students access to higher education, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap.

ECONOMIC SECURITY: AAUW Iowa advocates:

1. Pay equity and fairness in public and private employment compensation and benefits.

2. An increased state minimum wage.
3. Equitable opportunities for workplace advancement, including training and leadership opportunities.
4. Workplace benefits and policies that include paid family, medical, and sick leave, flexible hours, quality, affordable dependent care and provisions for pregnant workers or new mothers.
5. Collective bargaining rights for public or private sector employees and the right of workers to unionize without employer intimidation.
6. Protecting strong Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security systems and benefits and opposing any efforts to undermine them, including privatization and block grant proposals.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM: AAUW Iowa advocates:

Ensuring access to comprehensive family planning services, contraception and abortion care for all women regardless of location.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS: AAUW Iowa advocates:

1. Expanding voting rights to promote diverse, inclusive and equitable political participation.
2. Equitable representation of women and minorities in elected, appointed, policy making and judicial positions.
3. Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including gun violence and hate crimes.
4. Universal access to quality, affordable health care, including mental health care including mental health care and prescription medication coverage.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: AAUW Iowa advocates:

Supporting policies and funding that address the prevention of human trafficking and protection of its victims.