

AAUW NJ

Voter Guide 2023



New Jersey will elect 120 state legislators (80 Assembly seats and 40 Senate seats) this November 7. The current political environment, including what many refer to as the growing culture wars, has shifted focus to the state legislative arena all around the country. With recent Supreme Court decisions, states are taking on issues that were once considered under federal purview. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, there is so much at stake every time women head to the polls. Policy makers in our state government are now routinely making decisions about issues that directly affect us and our families. And often, those conversations lack women's voices. As we enter this season of political punditry and campaign promises, it is of utmost importance that we identify those who will best represent our values and those who seek to roll back our hard-won rights.

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**It's as simple as this:
When women vote,
we win.**

This Voter Guide provides nonpartisan information about policy concerns that are critical to women and their families.

AAUW MISSION

The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Its advocacy is based on federal Public Policy Priorities that are adopted every two years by every member vote. The issues members supported in 2023 fall under three categories: Education, Economic Security and Civil Rights. These policy priorities also inform state and local branches of AAUW.

AAUW NJ leadership has opted to support these same priorities in its current advocacy work.

AAUW 2023 FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Support of a strong system of public education, by enforcing Title IX and other civil rights laws pertaining to education; funding adequately a quality public education; opposing use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and charter schools, which do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards required of other public schools.

Achievement of Economic Security for all Women, by advocating pay equity in compensation and benefits; endorsing a living wage; supporting policies to allow women better work/life balances such as quality and affordable day care and paid family, medical and sick leave.

Guarantee of Equality, Individual Rights and Social Justice, by advocating for self-determination in reproductive health care decisions, requiring access to quality affordable health care and comprehensive family planning, enforcing civil and constitutional rights, such as affirmative action, voting rights, defending self and family structures, eliminating violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, communities and workplaces, supporting programs addressing human rights and those of women and girls AND PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

TAKE ACTION IN NOVEMBER'S STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY ELECTION

This November, all 120 seats of the State legislature are up for election in New Jersey and it's essential that every member knows the candidates in their legislative district (LD). Following apportionment after the 2020 census, about a quarter of the incumbents are not running for reelection to their seat. This past June, if you voted in the primary, you voted for party candidates using the [newly adopted 2022 Legislative District map](#).

Do you know your new/current LD? Finding your new legislative district (LD) can be tricky. Use this [tool](#) on the Fair Districts NJ website to see if your LD has changed.

Do you know who you will be voting for in November? Each of us will be voting for a total of three state legislators (one Senator and two Assembly members) to represent our legislative district. If you are registered to vote, you'll receive a sample ballot with all the candidates' names. However, you can look them up ahead of the election using sites such as Ballotpedia for both the [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#).

Before you head to the polls, educate yourself on your candidates. Learn their stance on the issues that you care about. Most important, are your legislative candidates showing support for issues that impact the education, economic security and civil rights of women and girls? Ask them if they knock on your door. Read the papers; look for town halls. Know where they stand on issues important to AAUW.

CHECKING VOTING RECORDS FOR INCUMBENTS

Voting records are the best way to really know your candidates if they are incumbents. After all actions speak louder than campaign promises and by checking their record you can see if they are voting on your values. Below is a list of a handful of bills passed in the current legislative session that advance equity, education and gender equality. Clicking on the linked bill numbers will take you to the bill record on the New Jersey legislature website where you can read the details of the bill language, see its progress through committees and the roll call vote (which lists the votes of individual legislators).

Support for a strong system of public education

- [A1349](#)
[S1221](#) Establishes program in DOE to reimburse school districts for providing menstrual products in certain public schools and requires State to pay costs.
- [A1522](#)
[S2914](#) Establishes annual sales tax holiday for retail sales of computers, school computer supplies, school art supplies, school instructional materials and sport or recreational equipment.
- [A2368](#)
[S1677](#) Requires schools to provide free school breakfasts and lunches to students from working class, middle-income families; designated as "Working Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act."
- [A4924](#)
[S3724](#) Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants in summer of 2023; appropriates \$.

Achieving Economic Security for all Women

- [A5060](#) [S3440](#) Expands scope of school district employee sick leave.
- [A4768](#) [S3162](#) Revises effective date of severance requirements under "Millville Dallas Airmotive Plant Job Loss Notification Act."
- [A4682](#) [S2389](#) Establishes employment protections for certain service employees during changes of ownership.
- [A4149](#) [S275](#) Permits pharmacists to furnish self-administered hormonal contraceptives pursuant to a standing order, in accordance with protocols established by Board of Pharmacy and Board of Medical Examiners.

Guaranteeing Equality, Individual Rights and Social Justice

- [A3974](#) [S2642](#) Prohibits extradition of individual from another state back to that state for actions related to conduct concerning reproductive health care services lawful in this State.
- [A2770](#) [S1517](#) Authorizes issuance of protective orders for certain victimized persons in situations for which domestic violence statutes do not apply due to lack of familial or dating relationship between victim and offending actor.*
- [A3817](#) [S2863](#) Requires ballot privacy sleeves at polling place; makes various changes to early and mail-in voting procedures; creates online form to update name and residence on existing voter registration record.
- [A3929](#) [S2899](#) Allows certain voters residing overseas to vote in certain elections in this State depending on overseas residency or intent to return.

RESOURCES

1. For everything about the New Jersey Legislature, go to njleg.state.nj.us. You can search bills, find your legislator, learn how the NJ legislature works, and more.
2. To register to vote, view your current registration status, and polling places, go to nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml.
3. Senate and Assembly candidates on Ballotpedia: [State Senate](#) and [Assembly](#)
4. Vote411: candidate info maintained by League of Women Voters www.vote411.org
5. AAUW 2022 Voter Issue Guide www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/