

AAUW NJ

Voter Guide 2025

What's at stake in New Jersey this November

This November 4, New Jersey will elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all 80 members of the State Assembly.

The political environment has shifted dramatically. What many call the “culture wars” are now playing out in state legislatures across the country. With recent Supreme Court decisions, states are taking on issues once decided at the federal level.

From our paychecks to paid leave, reproductive health care to education—so much is at stake every time women head to the polls. State policymakers are making decisions that directly impact our lives and families, yet too often, these conversations are happening without women's voices at the table.

As campaign season heats up, it is more important than ever that we identify the leaders who will truly represent our values—and stand against those who seek to roll back our hard-won rights.

**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.



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AAUW MISSION

AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls hinges on the foundational belief that economic empowerment is essential for gender equity. Supporting women in higher education is crucial to this mission because it serves as a key pathway to economic security and upward mobility.

The Public Policy Principles and Priorities 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 2025-27 FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES

AAUW stands for Education

- **Public Education:**
 - Investing in strong public education systems which provide equitable high quality public K-12 education
 - Opposing the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary, secondary education, and charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools
 - Closing the learning and opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect students from low-income and underserved groups
- **Inclusive Curriculum:**
 - Ensuring all curriculum represents historically accurate information, information based on scientific consensus, and is free from censorship and political, religious, or cultural bias
- **STEM Opportunities:**
 - Closing the gender gap in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education
 - Expanding access for women in technical and vocational education and training that leads to lucrative employment
- **Strengthened Civil Rights Protections**
 - Strengthening civil rights statutes impacting education including Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other laws
 - Reinstating Title IX rules that strengthen and clarify protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault, ensure schools provide accommodations for pregnant and parenting students, and affirm Title IX's protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
 - Prohibiting harassment and bullying in schools, including support of enumerated anti-bullying and harassment laws and policies
- **Higher Education:**
 - Supporting equitable access to higher education, which is affordable, inclusive and yields high-quality credentials or degrees through increasing investment in financial support for degree programs and addressing the debt burden which disproportionately impacts women and borrowers of color

- Expanding access for women in career and technical education and training that yields high quality credentials or degrees
- Reducing barriers to postsecondary success through policies that mitigate non-tuition challenges to completing a degree or high-

quality certificate program, including supporting pregnant or parenting students, expanding access to affordable childcare, and ensuring access to contraception and abortion care

AAUW stands for Economic Security

- **Pay Equity:**
 - Ensuring equal pay and benefits for work of equivalent value, and addressing root causes of occupational segregation
 - Addressing the multiple factors that reinforce the gender and racial pay gaps, through increasing salary transparency, eliminating salary history to set future wages, increasing the minimum wage, and other policies that mitigate the gender pay gap
 - Enforcing and expanding employment discrimination statutes
- **Mitigation of Caregiving:**
 - Improving access to paid sick leave, medical

leave, safe leave, affordable child and elder care, and other policies that mitigate the unequal burden on women for caregiving responsibilities

- **Retirement Safety Nets:**
 - Strengthening Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and oppose any efforts to undermine them, including privatization and block grant proposals
- **Reproductive Freedom:**
 - Ensuring affordable access to contraception and abortion care for all women regardless of location

AAUW stands for Social Justice and Civil Rights

- **Constitutional Rights:**
 - Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including recognition and publication of the Equal Rights Amendment
 - Complete, accurate and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation
- **Expanding Voting Rights:**
 - Expanding voting rights to promote equitable political participation and ensure all Americans have the same access and right to vote
- **Freedom from Harassment and Violence:**
 - Ensuring that people who are subject to harassment or violence based on age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical

location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status have full protection and recourse under the law

- Supporting policies to end gender-based violence, including reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Supporting policies that address the prevention of human trafficking and protection of its victims
- **International and Civil Rights:**
 - Supporting U.S. advancement towards the gender equity goals on education and the economy in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - Supporting ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

NEW JERSEY GUBERNATORIAL AND ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2025

This November, New Jersey voters will elect a **Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all 80 members of the State Assembly**. It's essential that every **AAUW NJ member** knows the candidates in their legislative district (LD).

Do you know your current LD? Finding it can be tricky—use the [Fair Districts NJ tool](#) to check if your district has changed.

Each of us will be voting for **two Assembly members** to represent our district. If you're registered, you'll receive a sample ballot before Election Day. But don't wait—explore resources like [Ballotpedia](#) to learn more about who's running in your district.

Before you head to the polls, take time to educate yourself. Learn where the candidates stand on the issues you care about most. Are they supporting policies that advance **education, economic security, and the civil rights of women and girls**?

Ask questions if they knock on your door. Attend town halls. Read local coverage. Make sure you know where they stand—because your vote helps shape the future of women and girls in New Jersey.

CHECKING VOTING RECORDS FOR INCUMBENTS

Voting records are the best way to truly understand your candidates' positions—especially for incumbents. Actions speak louder than campaign promises, and by reviewing how legislators have voted, you can see whether their record aligns with your values.

Below is a list of key bills from the current legislative session that advance **equity, education, and gender equality**. Each linked bill number will take you directly to the New Jersey Legislature website, where you can:

- Read the full bill language
- Track its progress through committees
- See the roll call vote (including how each legislator voted)

EDUCATION

[S2421](#) "Freedom to Read Act"; establishes requirements for library material in public school libraries and public libraries; protects school library staff members and librarians.

[A2288](#)
[S2647](#) Establishes Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery in DOE.

[S2644](#) Requires DOE to establish working group on student literacy; mandates universal literacy screenings for kindergarten through grade three students; requires professional development for certain school district employees.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

[A2027](#)
[S2330](#) Establishes a one year NJ menstrual hygiene benefit pilot program and a NJ Diaper benefit pilot program. The program provides a monthly benefit to low income families to help them afford menstrual products and diapers

[A3861](#)
[S2806](#) Protects consumers from unfair credit and collection practices related to medical debt

[A4540](#)
[S3407](#) Requires the payment of prevailing wages for work undertaken on projects receiving finance through the C-PACE program

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS

[A908](#)
[S715](#) Requires AG to establish rape kit tracking system.

[A3748](#)
[S1017](#) Establishes the right for sexual assault victims to get notifications of certain developments in their criminal case.

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. Assembly candidates on Ballotpedia: [New Jersey General Assembly elections, 2025](#)
4. Vote411: candidate info maintained by League of Women Voters www.vote411.org