

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

PROJECT 2025 IS BECOMING REALITY AND DEI IS UNDER FIRE Project 2025 is Becoming Reality. Take Action to Fight Back!

The objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. With federal policy pronouncements and changes taking place at a head-spinning pace since January 20, 2025, it is clear that there is a concerted effort by a number of coalitions in the federal government to make Project 2025 become reality. For example:

- The Executive Order declaring that there are “only two genders, male and female”.
- The Executive Order eliminating federal funds for schools that recognize transgender identities or teach about structural racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias.
- The Executive Order directing federal agencies to look for ways to expand access to private school vouchers.
- The Executive Order rescinding a dozen Biden-era executive actions supporting racial equity and combating discrimination against gay and transgender people.
- The Office of Management and Budget ordered freezing all federal financial assistance (since rescinded but with a standing order for agencies to restrict DEI programming and “woke gender ideology”).
- The Executive Order withdrawing the United States from the 2015 Paris Agreement that seeks to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

AAUW California is building out our own action-items database, which will go live for you this spring. For now, we ask you to **take action** by choosing **one self-focused and one political-focused** item from the list below.

Self-Focused: Education

- rewatch the webinar from the fall, as needed, to get a sense of what Project 2025 is/does and/or read the [document](#) itself.
- read the legal challenges linked above to better understand how organizations are working to fight back.

Politically-Focused: Outreach to Senators

- sign the [petition](#) opposing the confirmation of Linda McMahon for secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Text “SIGN PTGHEX” to 50409.
- reach out to potential swing Senators from outside of California to voice your opposition to confirmation/s:

Podcast: Is DEI Illegal?

In advocating for gender equity and social justice through policy and legislation, there is a direct link between public policy work and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work at AAUW California. Co-Director Missy Maceyko has recorded a recent podcast episode on how to understand DEI work in light of the federal attack on DEI. The podcast also touches on programs and actions in which you can and should continue to engage in your organizations-- those that historically overlap with DEI work, but that are not always coded as DEI, such as mentorship programs and/or training in how to speak across difference.

Click [HERE](#) to access on YouTube

Lobby Days 2025

We encourage all members to participate in Lobby Days 2025, an important act of advocacy to promote our legislative priorities. Meetings will be held in person at the state Capitol on Tuesday, April 8th, and virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, April 9th. For more information about the event, see the article [HERE](#).

AAUW Public Policy Priorities

AAUW California is currently undergoing the biennial review and update of our Public Policy Priorities (PPPs). The California Public Policy Committee is working together to consider all of your feedback and, based on this, will release proposed updates to members for a vote this spring. Your input and this process are important as these Priorities shape our actions as an organization.