CANDIDATE GUIDE

Serving on the AAUW Board of Directors

Qualifications, leadership expectations, position descriptions, and service commitments.

15 DIRECTORS

AAUW'S GOVERNING BODY

AAUW seeks accomplished, mission-driven leaders committed to advancing equity for women and girls through effective governance, strategic leadership, and fiduciary stewardship. The Board oversees strategy, finances, governance, risk management, and long-term organizational sustainability. Directors serve AAUW as a whole and steward the Association's mission, resources, and future. Four elected officers serve as Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, Board Finance Chair, and Board Secretary.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL BOARD CANDIDATES

1 MISSION COMMITMENT

- Commitment to AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls.
- Dedication to educational opportunity, leadership development, economic security, and gender equity.
- Willingness to serve as an ambassador and advocate for AAUW.
- Willingness to donate financially to AAUW annually at a level that is personally significant as well as make a leadership year-end matching gift.

2 LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

- Significant leadership in nonprofit, corporate, academic, governmental, philanthropic, or community organizations.
- Ability to think strategically and focus on long-term organizational success.
- Understanding governance responsibilities and the distinction between governance and management.
- Ability to make decisions advancing the organization as a whole, and navigate complexity thoughtfully, constructively, and collaboratively.

3 PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Integrity and sound judgment; collegiality and collaboration.
- Respects the opinions of others, and also willing to question or disagree appropriately.
- Strong communication and listening skills; openness to innovation and change.
- Accountability, professionalism, respect for differing perspectives, and diversity of thought, experience, and background.

4 BOARD SERVICE READINESS

- Devotes the time necessary to fulfill Board responsibilities.
- Participates actively in Board and committee discussions.
- Commits to confidentiality and ethical conduct.
- Complies with conflict-of-interest and governance policies.
- Supports AAUW through philanthropy, fundraising engagement, and relationship-building.

Building a Balanced Leadership Bench

The Nominating Committee seeks directors with diverse experience and expertise that align with organizational strategy and priorities, as those change from time to time.

BOARD COMPOSITION PRIORITIES

Nonprofit executive leadership experience, financial, accounting, investment and audit expertise, board governance, and leadership experience are always valued. Additionally, the committee seeks to include individuals familiar with AAUW's organizational structure and traditions as well as those less familiar with AAUW who may bring new perspectives to help the organization evolve. Significant connections to major individual, foundation or corporate donors are helpful.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

BOARD CHAIR	VICE CHAIR	FINANCE CHAIR	BOARD SECRETARY
AAUW's chief elected governance leader; presides over the Board and Executive Committee; leads governance and partners with the CEO. Serves ex officio as provided by the bylaws.	Supports the Chair, assumes the office if a vacancy occurs, assists with governance leadership, and performs duties delegated by the Chair or Board.	Chief financial governance officer; chairs Finance and Investment Committees; oversees stewardship, investments, reporting, and long-term sustainability.	Chief governance officer overseeing Board records, governance processes, elections, and official Board documentation.
Qualifications: Prior AAUW Board service; board leadership; presiding experience; strategic planning; facilitation; relationship-building; consensus-building.	**Qualifications:** Prior board service; governance leadership; strategic leadership capability.	**Qualifications:** Board service; finance, audit, accounting, banking, treasury, or investment expertise; nonprofit budgets or endowments; clear financial communication; mentoring and succession.	**Qualifications:** Board service; governance expertise; nonprofit bylaws and practices; parliamentary procedure; strong organization and communication.
DIRECTOR	Directors serve as fiduciaries, contribute expertise, judgment, and leadership, participate fully in Board deliberations and strategic decision-making, and support effective governance across the Association.		

BEFORE YOU SAY YES

✓ TIME	✓ VOICE	✓ STEWARDSHIP
Can I commit sustained time and preparation?	Will I contribute candidly, respectfully, and strategically?	Will I support AAUW through giving, advocacy, and relationships?

| Prepared for the AAUW Nominating Committee |