

It's My Vote! 2026:

***Your AAUW,
Your Community,
Your Action***

July 8, 2026



What can one branch do to shape the 2026 midterms? More than you might think. With more than 110,000 seats on the ballot, AAUW branches have an important role to play in helping voters show up informed and ready.

We're not telling anyone who to vote for. We're making sure every woman has what she needs to participate.

View the webinar recording here: <https://youtu.be/hWTaXnb7xtM>.

Today's Agenda

- **What's At Stake**
- **What Works: Hear from Members**
- **What You Can Do**
- **Q&A**



We'll take a practical look at AAUW's *It's My Vote!* campaign — a nonpartisan effort to give women the tools, information, and confidence to make their voices heard.

You'll hear directly from AAUW members about what's working in their communities, get a preview of upcoming resources from AAUW, and leave with ideas your branch can put into action right away.

Has your branch done voter engagement work?



No matter your level of experience with engaging voters, there's an opportunity for everyone to make a difference this election season.

Nonprofit VOTE's [How to Talk to Voters](#) script and [Active Listening Tool](#) can help you get started with conversations in your community.

Staying Nonpartisan

AAUW is nonpartisan and political.

Your branch can:

- ✓ Talk about issues at stake in elections
- ✓ Share information about how to vote
- ✓ Advocate on state ballot measures
- ✓ Encourage everyone to make their voice heard!



AAUW has always been political — we work to change policies and systems so women and girls can thrive. Over the decades, that's meant advancing Title IX protections, pay equity laws, college affordability, and support for student parents.

Being political, however, is not the same as being partisan. Partisanship means supporting or opposing candidates or political parties. Our strength comes from an issues-first approach that welcomes people across the political spectrum.

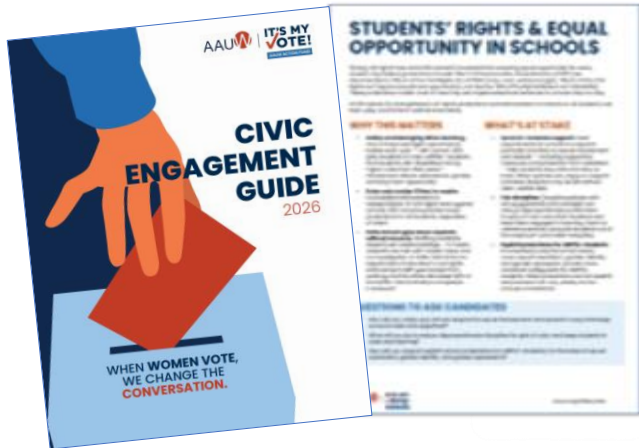
Your branch is empowered to take nonpartisan action around elections, including educating and mobilizing voters.

Resources:

- AAUW Guidelines for Election Activities:
www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/07/AAUW-Guidelines-for-Election-Activities.pdf
- Leading with Values: A Nonpartisan Playbook for AAUW Affiliates and Branches:
www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2026/01/Leading-with-Values-A-Nonpartisan-Playbook-for-AAUW-Affiliates-and-Branched-compressed.pdf

2026 Civic Engagement Guide

- Why this matters
- What's at stake
- Questions to ask candidates



Explore AAUW and AAUW Action Fund's 2026 Civic Engagement Guide:
www.aauw.org/resources/policy/2026-civic-engagement-guide.

The guide's pages are designed to be printed as individual sheets — tackle one issue at a time or focus on what's most important to you and your community.

Look out for the sentence that starts with “AAUW stands for...” to find our policy position. Next, we lay out why the issue matters for women and girls and what's at stake in policy decisions. Lastly, we share questions to ask candidates or spark a dialogue in your community.

The Civic Engagement Guide is meant to inspire curiosity and serve as a starting point.

- What do you want to know more about?
- What level of elected officials are going to impact these issues in your community?
- Who's most impacted and are there members of that group in your community that you can talk to or work with?

Elections Matter at All Levels

Elected officials

Make decisions on...

School board	School policies, curriculum, budget
City council	Public health & safety, tax rates, zoning laws
Mayor	City budget, housing, law enforcement
Secretary of State	Election administration & results, voter rolls

Many of the officials who make national headlines are not those who are making the biggest impact on our daily lives.

If you're talking with friends or neighbors who might feel unmotivated or disconnected from elections, lift up what local and state roles are and what impact those officials have on their day-to-day lives. Reminding folks that they have a say in who decides things like school curriculum, budgets, and housing can be powerful.

This slide references information from the Legal Defense and Educational Fund's (LDF) Thurgood Marshall Institute:

www.tminstituteldf.org/local-elections.

What You Can Do



There's a way for everyone to have an impact. Learn how you and your branch can take action.

Get Inspired: AAUW Branch Activities

On the webinar, members shared how they're engaging voters.

Below are ideas you can put into action in your community!

- Hold a candidate forum or meet & greet
- Organize a public tour of your local voting center
- Register voters at a senior living community or college fair
- Host an issue forum on state ballot measures
- Assist older voters with requesting permanent absentee ballots
- Send postcards to low-propensity (infrequent) voters

We heard AAUW members from Alaska and Missouri share what their voter engagement work looks like this year.

The [AAUW Fairbanks, Alaska branch](#) is collaborating with the local League of Women Voters chapter and the [Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks](#) to address common barriers to voting that students face. They're planning a potential candidate forum, campus tabling, and transportation to local polling places.

[AAUW of Missouri](#) launched a "Ballots in the Box" voter mobilization plan in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The project aims to encourage voter turnout by directly addressing reasons why people don't vote, creating a "one-stop-shop" for voting information, and empowering AAUW-MO branches to mobilize voters locally.

Folks on the call also shared great examples of voter engagement activities from their branches in the Zoom chat (shown here and on the next slide). You're encouraged to take any of these ideas and put them into action in your community!

Get Inspired: AAUW Branch Activities

cont.

- Collaborate with a local community college
- Host a meeting with local elected officials
- Submit letters to the editor to local newspapers
- Share voting information with friends and neighbors, including election dates, how to vote by mail, and local polling locations
- Send out a candidate questionnaire (501(c)(4) only)

Resources

- AAUW Guidelines on Election Activities:
www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/07/AAUW-Guidelines-for-Election-Activities.pdf
- How to Organize a Candidate Forum: www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/organize-candidate-forum
- How to Organize an Issue Forum: www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/organize-issue-forum
- How to Hold a Meeting with Your Elected Officials:
www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/meeting-elected-officials
- Reclaim Our Vote – send postcards to infrequent voters:
www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote

AAUW Five-Star Program



Your branch can organize:

- ❑ A voter registration, education, or mobilization activity.
- ❑ A program on an AAUW policy topic. (also counts towards a Programming Star)
- ❑ A group action — such as attending a school board meeting.

And more!



AAUW's Five-Star Program recognizes branches for their mission-aligned work. Five-Star criteria can also be used to spark ideas for branch activities — including public policy and advocacy. Conducting a voter registration, education, or mobilization activity counts towards the Public Policy & Advocacy Star in Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027).

Resources

- AAUW Five-Star Program: www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program
- AAUW in Action: Be a Policy Star!: www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/03/AAUW-in-Action.pdf

It's My Vote! Calendar



July	August	September	October	November
Good Trouble Lives On July 17-19	Unite & Rise for Voting Rights Aug. 8	National Voter Registration Day Sep. 15	National Voter Education Week Oct. 5-9	Election Day Nov. 3
	Women's Equality Day Aug. 26	AAUW Action Fund 119th Congressional Voting Record	Vote Early Day Oct. 27	

From now through Election Day — and beyond — you branch has opportunities to plug in.

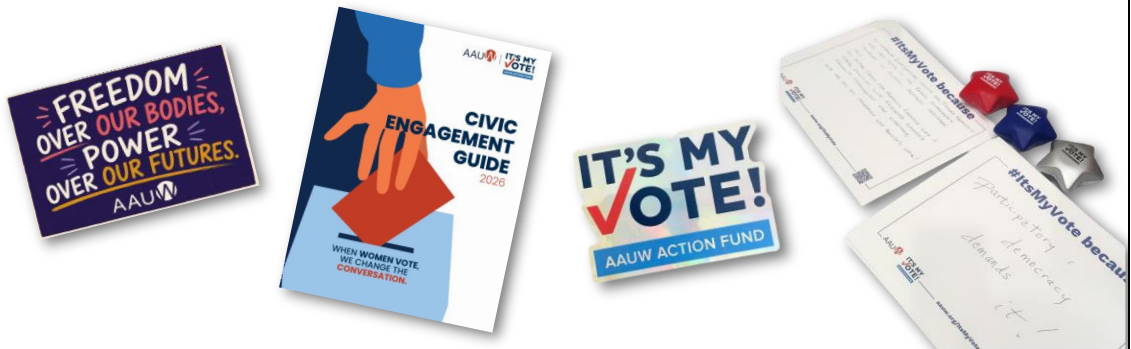
Resources

- AAUW Toolkit - Good Trouble Lives On Weekend of Action: www.aauw.org/gtlo-2026-toolkit
- AAUW Action Fund: www.aauwaction.org
- Unite & Rise for Voting Rights: www.lwv.org/riseforvotingrights
- National Voter Registration Day: www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org
- National Voter Education Week: www.nationalvotereducationweek.org
- Vote Early Day: www.voteearlyday.org

AAUW Resources



Request stickers, pins, and signs for your next voter engagement event!



We have free materials you can print at home and bring to branch or community events like candidate forums, town halls, or campus fairs.

AAUW branches and affiliates can request free *It's My Vote!* stickers, pins, and blank signs to be mailed to them. [Submit the advocacy materials request form here](#).

Visit www.aauw.org/ItsMyVote to download the Civic Engagement Guide and the "It's My Vote because..." signs that are on this slide. These are great engagement tools. If you send us your pictures with the signs (policy@aauw.org), we'll feature them on social media.

Nonpartisan Allies

WHEN WE ALL VOTE



There are many nonpartisan organizations committed to educating and mobilizing voters — from student-led groups to community-based partners. See AAUW's *It's My Vote!* Resource Guide to learn about the ones on this slide (and more!):

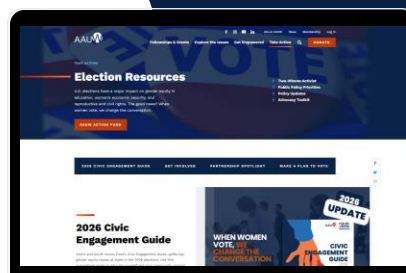
www.aauw.org/voter-resource-guide.

AAUW's [Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships](#) guide can help you identify potential collaborators, build relationships, and create lasting change.

Learn more

www.aauw.org/ItsMyVote

policy@aauw.org



Find more nonpartisan election resources at www.aauw.org/ItsMyVote.

Questions? Reach out to the AAUW Policy & Member Advocacy team at policy@aauw.org.