“September, October, November – Oh, My”

It is September and in less than 60 days we will exercise our right to vote in the most crucial election of our time. Historians will record this election cycle as one that changed our republic and altered democracy. We know our nation is politically and ideologically divided and polarized. Racial tensions are at their highest level in history. The COVID-19 pandemic is ravaging cities and states.

Yet, amid the chaos and what we know, AAUW is employing strategies and action plans to continue its mission of advocacy and equity for women and girls. Public Policy state chairs, across the nation, are implementing initiatives and activities to bring visibility to AAUW, its mission and values.

It is alongside the actions of other states, the AAUW MN state board approved the “I WILL VOTE…” ad campaign.

Each AAUW MN board member and a representative from each AAUW MN branch may submit a photo of a member; label photo with member’s branch city/town and the answer to the statement “I will vote in 2020 because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ”.

* + Statements of candidate endorsements will NOT be allowed.
  + Statements of political party endorsements will NOT be allowed.
  + Statements should affirm and acknowledge the importance of voting.
  + Statements should recognize the belief of our right to exercise our vote.
  + Statements may include personal reasons and/or support of our AAUW Mission-to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy; AAUW Vision Statement: Equity for all; and our AAUW Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Deadline for submissions and participation by the branches is September 16, 2020. All photos combined will run, during the month of October, in key geographic news centers across MN.

As an option to branches who choose not to participate, they may contact local newspapers to run the full-page lay-out, by seeking a local sponsor to help pay the costs of the full-page ad.

This is an AAUW MN public policy initiative that will:

* bring public awareness to AAUW MN
* build membership
* renew our collective and personal AAUW goals.

This is our moment to promote AAUW and AAUW MN through this initiative.

In addition to the ‘I WILL VOTE ….’ Ad campaign, I remind members to also be as proactive in the election process as possible. You can do so by reviewing the [AAUW website Policy page](https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/) and use the voting strategies and information on the [AAUW Action Fund page.](https://www.aauwaction.org/) The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization. The information is organized by key action areas. Click each key area for further information. *Check your voter registration status* is a valuable tool. Especially if your branch is running a voter registration campaign. It is an effective & instant way to learn if college students are registered in another state.

* [Congressional Voting Record for the 115th Congress](https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/congressional-voting-record/)
* [AAUW Action Fund Voter Issue Guide](https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/)
* [Learn more about AAUW’s policy priorities.](https://www.aauw.org/issues/" \t "_blank)
* [Become a Two-Minute Activist.](https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/" \t "_blank)
* [Check your voter registration status.](https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/" \t "_blank)

In a previous Public Policy update, I provided *Public Policy Action Proposals for Branches*. Proposals included:

* Voter registration events,
* Live Two-Minute Activist programs at branch meetings,
* Op-Eds in newspapers, direct contact with U.S. Congressional candidates (use the Voter Guide and ask the tough questions),
* broadcast a specific program or a panel discussion on a public policy issue via Public Access TV in your city, and
* use Social Media platforms.

Become AAUW leaders in your community who publically demonstrate the value of AAUW and its mission.

**Thank you!**

**Stay well, stay safe.**

***Together – Moving Forward for AAUW***

Jan Carey, AAUW MN VP Public Policy

Questions/Comments? Contact Jan: 218-263-7159 [jmcfree@aol.com](mailto:jmcfree@aol.com)