**AAUW San Antonio Public Policy Job Description**

**Public Policy Defined**

Public policy is generally considered to be a series of on-going, goal-oriented actions that handle real and perceived problems in government and society. For the most part, public policy is undertaken by public, private, legislative, or executive organizations.

**Public Policy Chair**

The Public Policy Chair provides public policy information to members through monthly branch newsletters and other forms of communication, as needed, to keep members up to date with current public policy issues, positions, and actions. Public policy issues are directly tied to the AAUW mission of “advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research” and the AAUW Vision of “Equity for all.” Public policy priorities from AAUW National and AAUW State are used to guide Branch decision-making and actions including:

* Annual Theme
* Monthly Programs
* Strategic Plan
* Budget
* Fundraising
* Member Recruitment and Retention

**Responsibilities**

* Become familiar with national and state AAUW priorities using resources provided on the national and state websites. (See attached document AAUW Public Policy Resources.)
* Read and share information that national provides on public policy issues through
	+ Email
	+ Newsletter articles
	+ Board Meetings
* Attend national and state Public Policy Zoom Meetings and share pertinent information with Board and members as appropriate using communication and social media forums.

**Timeline**

* Prepare and send Public Policy article for the next month’s newsletter to Webmaster using the Constant Contact link provided by the branch President on the 5th of the month.
	+ Example: On February 5, submit Public Policy article that will be in the March newsletter.
	+ Submit an article each month the newsletter is published, July-June. The AAUW fiscal year begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

**Current AAUW Public Policy Priorities:** For in-depth information go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

* To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.
* To achieve economic security for all women
* To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society

**AAUW Public Policy Resources** may be found at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**Background**

Since its founding, AAUW’s members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

AAUW’s polity work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to advance our work to empower women and girls. With the member-endorsed Public-Policy Priorities as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. (From the AAUW National website at aauw.org.)

**Additional Policy Resources**

AAUW Action Network: sends subscribers urgent email notices when their advocacy is most needed.

Two-Minute Activist Tool: (aauw.us/twominuteactivist) A fast way to contact your legislators and make your voice heard. Anyone with an email address can subscribe.

AAUW Washington Update: A weekly email bulletin with an insider’s view on public policy.

Quick Facts: AAUW compiles current information and advocacy resources on issues related our Public Policy Priorities.

AAUW Issues webpage: (aauw.us/aauwissues) For updated position papers and quick facts on AAUW’s priority issues, visit this webpage.