

AAUW-NYS Public Policy Counterpart Newsletter



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August 26: Celebrate the Anniversary of Women in the United States Winning the Right to Vote

On August 26, 1920, after three generations of an unrelenting, brilliant, courageous, political campaign, women in the United States won the right to vote. To honor and commemorate the historic date of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduced a Congressional Resolution to ensure that this date would be commemorated with the designation of Women's Equality Day, which is celebrated on August 26th each year.

Download a free **Women's Equality Day Brochure**

(http://www.nwhp.org/E_DayCopymaster2013.pdf) from the National Women's History Project and check out this entertaining **Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage** Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYQhRCs9IHM!>

Here's a great idea: **Fly your flag** on Women's Equality Day, Monday, August 26th to honor the generations of Americans who worked for 72 years to win the right to vote for women.

It is also a great opportunity for a **Letter to the Editor** or a **local OpEd**! Check out the Fall Calendar for other key dates and issues which will give you other visibility opportunities.

Staying in touch with Public Policy News & Issues:

In just a few weeks, Congress will gear back up again and turn to important issues such as immigration and the federal budget. Are you set to receive the latest updates every day, not just on Fridays in this e-newsletter?

The best way to stay in the loop is to follow [AAUW public policy updates](#) and the [AAUW Action Fund](#) on Twitter and like the [AAUW](#) and [AAUW Action Fund](#) Facebook pages. We post action alerts, breaking news, and reactions to the latest policy developments on

those social media channels, so you'll always be one step ahead of the game. And you'll still have Washington Update every Friday to provide additional analysis on the news and resources to help you take action. Tune in to AAUW on social media today, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Liz Owens
AAUW Political Media Coordinator

AAUW-NYS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS>

Bookmark this page and visit it daily. There is a ton of useful and interesting information that gets posted daily. I can't possibly pass on everything by e-mail, so I use the AAUW-NYS Facebook page as a way to convey information. Many branches are starting to use Facebook as a way to connect to members and communities; please connect to AAUW-NYS the same way!

US Mission Briefing Invitation August 27th at 2 pm

You are invited to participate in a United States Mission to the United Nations briefing on Tuesday, August 27th at 2pm. The briefing will be led by Laurie Phipps from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Ms. Phipps is in charge of women's issues under Ambassador Samantha Power. We will discuss women's issues and the post-2015 development agenda. The US Mission is located at 799 United Nations Plaza (between 44th and 45th Streets on First Avenue).

Please RSVP to Melissa Guardaro, AAUW's United Nations Representative at mguardaro@gmail.com before August 22nd and bring a photo ID to the briefing.

For your information, here is the statement by Laurie Phipps to the General Assembly's Third Committee on the Advancement of Women <http://www.humanrights.gov/tag/laurie-hipps/> and a statement made to the Executive Board of UN Women <http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/201384.htm>

6 Ballot Questions that await you in the fall

Branches have an opportunity to help educate voters on six state-wide ballot items that are up for a vote on Nov. 5. 2013 is an "off-year" election, but of course that means that there will be many important local offices on the ballot. These offices often have the most immediate effect on quality of life issues, so be sure you do your part to inform and motivate voters in your communities.

Allowing the expansion of casino gambling isn't the only constitutional issue New Yorkers will be asked to decide this November. Even though that topic has consumed

much of the attention so far, voters will also give a ye or nay to five other questions — a recent record for the number of constitutional decisions facing the state.

They range from technical tweaks to the way disabled veterans are promoted in the civil service system to how long judges should stay on the bench until retirement. And as in years past, there are questions regarding land use in the Adirondack Park.

1. Should veterans with combat-related disabilities get extra points when competing for civil service promotions?
2. Should state Supreme Court justices be allowed to stay on the bench until age 80?
3. Should casino gambling be allowed in the state?
4. Should municipalities be allowed to continue exceeding their debt limits for sewage facilities?
5. Should a land exchange between NYCO Minerals and the state be allowed?
6. Should the Legislature settle a land dispute between the state and private parties in Long Lake?

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Questions-that-await-you-in-the-fall-4619973.php>

2013 AAUW Impact Grant:

AAUW-NYS received a 2013 Public Policy Impact Grant from AAUW. This \$1,000 grant will allow us to focus our attention on key topics during this next year with the help of the powerful AAUW Public Policy Department staff and resources.

The primary focus is on **Title IX: Creating Safer Campus Climates**, which includes sexual harassment, bullying, and gun violence. Title IX is about so much more than athletics. This effort is being coordinated by me, Jeri Fairman, our AAUW-NYS College-University Director, and Dr. Jennifer Ball, the District 7 Coordinator.

They presented a workshop at the Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia (the PowerPoint is available on the state website) and we'll be creating resources and how-to materials for your use.

This project is flexible, designed to work at the branch or district level. You can work with your local colleges and/or your local school system or BOCUS Center. Under the Dignity For All Student Act which went into effect last July in NYS, all schools must have a building Title IX person, as well as an overall coordinator for the district/institution.

State Tracker Program Update:

The AAUW-funded State Tracker Program will be moving into its second year, which allows us to track the status of key pieces of legislation in the NYS on a day-to-day basis during the legislative calendar. AAUW is also transitioning to the SALSA platform for

Action Network, which will allow us in NYS to write and send out our own state-based Action Alerts. AAUW-NYS receives our Salsa training on Aug. 23.

Census site offers one-stop data delivery for Congressional districts

The U.S. Census Bureau has released My Congressional District, the first interactive tool geared exclusively toward finding basic demographic and economic statistics for every congressional district in the U.S. This Web app uses the latest annual statistics from the American Community Survey, providing the most detailed portrait of America's towns and neighborhoods.

Users can sort through statistics in five key categories upon selection of a specific district in the application. Summary level statistics covering education, finance, jobs and housing, as well as basic demographic information, can quickly be displayed, downloaded and shared with others.

A major feature of the My Congressional District app is the ability to embed a selected 113th congressional district on a user's own webpage. The embedded district will display the latest statistics from the American Community Survey, allowing visitors to quickly view statistics for any of the 435 congressional districts and the District of Columbia.

<http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/191970/site-offers-one-stop-info-on-congressional-districts/>

Fall Calendar:

- ◆ August 26: Women's Equality Day
 - ◆ September 8: UN's International Literacy Day
 - ◆ September 10: NYS Primary Day
 - ◆ September 24: National Voter Registration Day 2013
 - ◆ October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month - the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence has a website dedicated to this awareness event for information on awareness project highlights, campaign ideas, ways to engage the media, as well as access to artwork and training resources.
 - ◆ October 11: Voter Registration Deadlines for the general election
 - ◆ October 11: UN's International Day of the Girl Child
 - ◆ October 24: UN Day
 - ◆ November 5: Election Day
 - ◆ November 20: UN's Universal Children's Day
 - ◆ November 25: UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
 - ◆ December 1: World AIDS Day
 - ◆ December 10: Human Rights Day
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September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month

Safe Campus, Strong Voices is a national initiative organized by the Clery Center and Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment (PAVE) for National Campus Safety Awareness Month. For more information, visit: <http://clerycenter.org/national-campus-safety-awareness-month>.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 1st marks the start of the 2013 Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)! To help your programs plan and prepare, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence has a website dedicated to this awareness event. To get information on awareness project highlights, campaign ideas, ways to engage the media, as well as access to artwork and training resources, visit <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam/home>.

Shine the Light on Domestic Violence

Additionally, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) has released information regarding their 6th annual Shine the Light on Domestic Violence campaign. For more information visit http://www.opdv.ny.gov/public_awareness/campaigns/shinethelight/shinethelight13.html

Learn more:

Victims' Dilemma: 911 Calls Can Bring Eviction

Over the last 25 years, in a trend still growing, hundreds of cities and towns across the country have adopted nuisance property or "crime-free housing" ordinances. Putting responsibility on landlords to weed out drug dealers and disruptive tenants, the laws aim to save neighborhoods from blight as well as ease burdens on the police.

But the laws are sometimes forcing victims, especially women facing domestic violence, to choose between calling the police and holding on to their homes, according to legal aid groups and experts on housing and the poor.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/17/us/victims-dilemma-911-calls-can-bring-eviction.html>

Raise the Age NY is advocating for a comprehensive approach to raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York State. Youth in the adult criminal justice system are at high risk of victimization and abuse including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and placement in solitary confinement. Youth in adult facilities are 36 times more likely to commit suicide. Once released, youth face a lifetime of barriers associated with their criminal record. Most will be denied access to jobs and public housing. Some will face deportation depending upon their immigration status. Others will be turned away from colleges. (If this is an issue for you, check out: <http://www.raisetheageny.com>)

Did you know?

- ♦ New York is one of only two states that prosecute ALL youth as adults once they turn 16 years old – no matter how minor the charge?
- ♦ New York automatically charges middle school aged children as adults - yes children as young as 13 - for some crimes?
- ♦ Children as young as seven can be arrested in New York?

Of the nearly 50,000 16- and 17-year-olds arrested in New York State in 2010, nearly 70% were Black or Latino. The reality becomes even starker as one moves further into the system with Black and Latino youth making up nearly 80% of youth incarcerated in 2010. The large majority of these young people are arrested for misdemeanor offenses like larceny, marijuana offenses, and criminal mischief.

Concerned about gun violence? Here is a resource for those of us in New York State:

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence:

Since 1992, the mission of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) has been to reduce gun violence through legislative advocacy and education designed to encourage action, influence public opinion and lead to policy change. With a primary focus on New York State, NYAGV also advocates at the local and national levels for laws, policies and practices that protect New York State residents, particularly youth, from gun violence.

<http://nyagv.org/>

Issue Updates:

Social Security & Retirement Issues:

- ♦ [The Trends Few Dare Discuss: Social Security And The Decline In Full-Time Employment](#)
 - ♦ Aug. 13: [Happy Birthday, Social Security!](#) - Social Security is how we've cared for each other across generations and how we'll continue to do so.
 - ♦ [Suddenly, Retiree Nest Eggs Look More Fragile](#)
 - ♦ The Grey Ceiling: [Working Way Past 65](#) - New study shows that professors are delaying retirement or not planning to retire at all, due to both professional and economic reasons.
 - ♦ [Senior citizens struggle with mounting debt](#) - Nowadays, more and more people over the age of 65 are struggling with mounting debt levels, fueled primarily by mortgages and credit cards. The average debt held by senior citizens has ballooned to \$50,000 in 2010, up 83% since 2001, according to Federal Reserve data crunched by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.
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Social Justice Issues:

- ♦ Polaris Project Releases 2013 State Ratings on Human Trafficking - Polaris Project, an organization that fights human trafficking and slavery, released its 2013 state ratings to evaluate state laws aimed at preventing human trafficking, punishing traffickers, and supporting survivors. [Polaris Project](#) identified Arkansas, Wyoming, Mississippi, and New Jersey as the most improved states in 2013.
 - ♦ In the News: [California Enacts Landmark Legislation to Protect Transgender Students' Rights](#) - California is the first state to enshrine such protections in a statute and enforce them across school districts.
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Education Issues:

- ♦ [Head Start Releases Sequestration Cuts by State](#) - That is 3,847 children here in NYS!
 - ♦ [Parents Losing Jobs a Hidden Cost to Head Start Cuts](#) - While President Barack Obama advocates expanded education for all children under five, the budget deal he cut with Republicans in Congress is throwing poor children out of existing programs. The across-the-board reductions, made through a process known as sequestration, removed about \$400 million from Head Start this year, the deepest cut in dollar terms since its 1965 creation.
 - ♦ [Gender, Jobs and G.P.A.](#) - As early as eighth grade, girls are more likely to say they want to go to college and to earn better grades in school because of it, a new study says.
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Title IX Issues:

- ♦ [Report Criticizes College's Handling of Assault](#) - Three officials have been removed from their positions at St. Louis Community College's Meramec campus after a report faulted the college's handling of an assault on campus, and in particular to release of the man accused of the assault.
 - ♦ [Facing Title IX Complaint, District to Gauge Students' Sports Interests](#)
 - ♦ [New Campaign Helps College Students Fight Rape Culture](#) - College activists have a new online resource to help educate students about the rights afforded to them under federal gender equity laws.
 - ♦ [If You're Raped at USC, They Call It "Personal Injury" or "Domestic Dispute"](#) - SC is far from alone in wanting to bury sexual assault and rape complaints.
 - ♦ [Going on Offense With Title IX](#)
 - ♦ [After Outcry, Yale Will Clarify What 'Nonconsensual Sex' Means](#)
 - ♦ [Childbirth Doesn't Count?](#)
 - ♦ [New Tool for Sexual Assault Prevention Education Is Released](#)
 - ♦ [Cedarville University Facing Title IX Investigation](#)
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International Issues:

- ♦ [Child sex tourism: 'Some girls have been married 60 times by the time they turn 18'](#) - When young girls are sold into marriage, as 38,000 are every day, they can expect a life with no education and few opportunities, little public autonomy outside of their adult husband's control and an increased risk of death from pregnancy or childbirth, which are the number one killer of girls age 15 to 18 in the developing world. One in seven girls born in the developing world is married by age 15, usually sold by her family.
 - ♦ [More on child brides: After a political fight, Nigeria will continue allowing them](#) - Child marriages are common in much of the developing world, where young girls sold into marriages — often by poor families who need the money — are less likely to finish school and more likely to die from pregnancy and childbirth complications. Many advocates consider child marriages, like prostitution or forced labor, to be a form of human trafficking.
 - ♦ [Providing an education for girls is global responsibility](#)
 - ♦ [Family planning, higher education are priorities globally](#) - Family planning, higher education and quality time with loved ones are priorities for people around the world, according to a new global Nielsen survey of more than 29,000 people in 58 countries focusing on lifestyle values.
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