

# AAUW-NYS GOTV Counterpart Newsletter Get Out The Vote!



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**Donna Seymour, AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director 2012-13**  
315-265-6985      [seymour6985@verizon.net](mailto:seymour6985@verizon.net)

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Want to learn more about NYS Legislative Bills?

The quick and easy access to information about NYS bills AND their "fate" is at <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us>. Click on "Chapters" (bills that have been signed into law by the Governor), vetoes (those he did NOT like despite success in both houses), and "Approval Messages," (notes from the Governor on SOME bills that clarify his reasoning when signing them).

A BIG thank you to AAUW-NYS EOF VP Doris McLallen for this helpful tip!

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## **First Woman to Moderate Presidential Debate in 20 Years**

Candy Crowley will become the first woman in 20 years to moderate a presidential debate. Crowley's selection comes after three high school students petitioned the Commission of Presidential Debates to include at least one female moderator. The last woman to moderate a debate was Carole Simpson in the 1992. Simpson was the first woman and the first African-American moderator.

- ♦ The first debate will be on **October 3**, hosted by Jim Lehrer;
  - ♦ Crowley will host the second debate on **October 16**,
  - ♦ and the last will be **October 22** with Bob Schieffer.
  - ♦ Martha Raddatz will moderate the only vice presidential debate on **October 11**.
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## **Vote411.org**

Use this link to the League of Women Voter's Vote411.org to find out what is On Your Ballot, to Verify your Registration Status, and Your Polling Place!

<http://www.vote411.org/>

September 13 is NY State Election Primary Day – Get Out The Vote!

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## **PTA Votes Election Guide**

Election season is well underway and it's important that PTA's voice is heard. The **PTA Votes webpage** also provides an interactive tool that allows members to register to vote and identify local elections by entering an address.

[http://www.pta.org/pta\\_votes.asp](http://www.pta.org/pta_votes.asp)

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## Environmental Voter Education:

### **Environmental Advocates of New York**

With November fast approaching, you want to know **what our leaders have done to protect our air, land, and water**—and we're here to tell you. We'll let you what your leaders did (and didn't do) to protect our environment during the 2012 Legislative session. It was a session marked by gridlock and missed opportunities—we'll let you know what happened, and what's next for New York's environment.

WHAT: End of Session webinar

WHEN: **Thursday, September 6 at NOON**

WHERE: At your computer or mobile device

HOW: Register below

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/showReg?udc=9d7gih9bdjvb>

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### **National Women's Law Center: Title IX Online Trainings**

In celebration of Title IX's 40th anniversary, the **National Women's Law Center is offering two webinars to help advocates, coaches and school personnel learn more about Title IX.** These webinars are free, but participants must register separately for each webinar in advance.

## How to Use the Civil Rights Data Collection Online Tool to Check Your School's Record on Title IX Issues

**Thursday, September 6 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.**

Featuring:

- ♦ Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education
- ♦ Lara S. Kaufmann, Senior Counsel & Director of Education Policy for At-Risk Students, National Women's Law Center
- ♦ **Erin Prangley, Associate Director of Government Relations, American Association of University Women**

This free training will walk participants through how to access the online Civil Rights Data Collection. The Civil Rights Data Collection for K-12 public schools is a free online resource for parents, teachers and others who want to know more about the civil rights and equity conditions at individual school and district levels. Data includes enrollment, expenditures, teacher qualifications, access to college-prep and AP courses, participation

in athletics and gifted programs, school climate and discipline, sexual harassment and bullying, and more – and is cross-tabulated by race, gender, disability and other categories.

## What You Need To Know About Title IX and Athletics: A Webinar For Coaches, Parents, and School Officials

**Tuesday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.**

This free training for coaches, parents, school officials, and students will include important information on the following:

- ♦ General overview of Title IX as it applies to sports
- ♦ Tips for recognizing Title IX problems
- ♦ Opportunity to ask questions

Don't miss these opportunities to learn more about this important civil rights law, which requires schools to provide equal opportunities and protections to boys and girls both in the classroom and on the playing field.

**Register:** <http://www.nwlc.org/action/register-nwlc-september-title-ix-webinars>

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## What's at Stake for Women (and their families) in 2012:

Issue: Education

Why education remains a top election year issue.

**Ten things teachers, students should expect this year**

<http://tinyurl.com/8m8x8yq>

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### **New national poll reveals public's thoughts on education**

A new poll reveals thoughts on illegal immigrants and education, bullying, and more. Americans have a number of conflicting viewpoints in their preferences for investing in schools, going head-to-head on issues like paying for the education of the children of illegal immigrants, according to the 2012 annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools. There are clear partisan divides over whether children of illegal immigrants should receive free public education, school lunches, and other benefits, with 65 percent of Democrats versus 21 percent of Republicans favoring it. Overall, support for providing public education to these children is increasing. Forty-one percent of Americans favor this, up from 28 percent in 1995. Americans are also more divided across party lines than ever before in their support for public charter schools, with Republicans more supportive (80 percent) than Democrats (54 percent). When the poll — conducted annually by Phi Delta Kappa International (PDK) in conjunction with Gallup — asked Americans whether they believe Common Core State Standards would provide more consistency in the quality of education between school districts and states, 75 percent said yes. In fact, more than half of Americans (53

percent) believe common core state standards would make U.S. education more competitive globally. Ninety-seven percent of the public also agrees that it is very or somewhat important to improve the nation's urban schools, and almost two of three Americans (62 percent) said they would pay more taxes to provide funds to improve the quality of urban schools. Eighty-nine percent of Americans agree that it is very or somewhat important to close the achievement gap between white students and black and Hispanic students. Balancing the federal budget is more important than improving the quality of education. Sixty percent of Americans believe balancing the federal budget is more important, even though they said funding is the biggest problem facing public schools. Schools should discipline children for bullying. Three of four Americans believe that bullying prevention should be part of a school's curriculum, and 58 percent believe schools should investigate and discipline students when bullying occurs outside of school, including over the internet. Parents want more control over failing schools. Seventy percent of Americans favor giving parents whose children attend a failing school the option to mount a petition drive requesting that the teachers and principal be removed. More poll data is available at [www.pdkpoll.org](http://www.pdkpoll.org).  
<http://tinyurl.com/99yhhf5>

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## Issue: Title IX – Pregnant & Parenting Students

Did you know 30% of all teen girls who drop out of high school leave because of pregnancy, and 70% of teen girls who give birth end up leaving school?

### **Education Rules for Pregnant Moms Widely Ignored**

Title IX is widely known for opening up sports opportunities to U.S. female students but application of the 40-year-old law still has a long way to go when it comes to the educational rights of pregnant students. **The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reported in March 2010 that about 51 percent of teen mothers obtained high school degrees, far behind the 90 percent figure for young women who had not become pregnant.** The same report found that young women who had given birth before turning 18 had a low likelihood--less than 2 percent--of completing college by 30. These educational statistics come with life-haunting consequences. Not having a high school diploma limits employment opportunities. A cycle of poverty can begin at that point and for teens who grew up in a low-income condition it continues.

<http://tinyurl.com/8sr63an>

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### **Teen Pregnancy Declines, But U.S. Still Lags**

<http://tinyurl.com/9tvz2tj>

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## Issue: Reproductive Rights

## **Interactive Timeline Chronicles Attacks on Reproductive Rights**

For those wondering how we got to a place where birth control is still up for debate, Emily's List has put together an interactive timeline of the ongoing "War on Women": <http://tinyurl.com/9oq55r9>

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### **Issue: College Affordability**

College debt cuts across all income brackets...an economic truth we can leverage for voter education.

#### **Middle Income Students Incur Highest Student-Loan Debt**

Students from families earning \$40,000-\$59,000 annually are graduating with \$6,000 more debt than students whose families make less than \$40,000, according to a paper by Jason Houle. Those whose families make between \$60,000 and \$99,000 racked up nearly \$4,000 more in student loans than their low-income peers. Middle-income students borrowed \$12,000 more than those from families making \$100,000-\$149,000 and \$17,000 more than the most-affluent students from households earning \$150,000 or more. Other subgroups that are more likely to go into deeper debt: Young adults whose parents had less than a college degree; African-American students; and those with single parents or stepparents. Nearly 41 percent of all students left college with some debt, on average \$22,000.

<http://tinyurl.com/9vxo3br>

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#### **College Debt Hits Well-Off**

Rising college costs and a sagging economy are taking the biggest toll on a surprising group: upper-middle-income families. According to a Wall Street Journal analysis of recently released Federal Reserve data, households with annual incomes of \$94,535 to \$205,335 saw the biggest jump in the percentage with student-loan debt from 2007 to 2010, the latest figures available. That group also saw a sharp climb in the amount of debt owed on average.

<http://tinyurl.com/9pup2z4>

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#### **Studies: College worth it, but often comes at a cost**

Yes, a college degree is worth it, but yes, it's the middle class that's getting particularly squeezed with student debt in the pursuit of one.

- ♦ Overall, even as unemployment was rising past 10 percent, the authors found the economy actually added 200,000 jobs for workers with a bachelor's degree. Since the recovery began, it's created 2 million more.
- ♦ Overall, the number of jobs for people with at least some college is growing at a healthy 4 percent annually.

- ♦ But the growth rate for high school-only jobs is zero, and those jobs remain 10 percent below their pre-recession levels.

<http://tinyurl.com/9ltel38>

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Issue: Employment

### **Young Women Face Tougher Summer Job Market**

By Neil Shah

**It's getting harder for young women to find summer jobs.** The unemployment rate for women aged 16 to 24 rose this summer from 13.8% in April to 16.2% in July—the peak month for summer jobs—as high-school kids and college graduates sought work at restaurants and retailers or entered the job market for the first time in a weak economy, according to data released by the Labor Department Tuesday. By contrast, the unemployment rate for young men only nudged higher, from 17% to 17.9%. **The new data provide the latest evidence of how bad the economic rebound has been for women compared with men.** Adult men suffered more intensely than women during the recession as industries like manufacturing and construction cratered, yet they've also been quicker to find work during the recovery. A big chunk of America's youth, about 26%, are finding work in restaurants and other jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector, while around 19% were employed in the retail industry. The Labor Department data come from the government's Current Population Survey, a national survey of around 60,000 households that underlies the government's estimate of the unemployment rate.

<http://tinyurl.com/93zwnf5>

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### **Public Sector Job Cuts Aren't Just Hurting Women's Employment**

**For every 10 private sector jobs women have gained in the recovery, they've lost more than four public sector jobs.** But the impact of the unprecedented public sector job cuts we've seen recently is far broader. A new report from Brookings highlights these key facts:

- ♦ Teachers (overwhelmingly women) experienced the largest number of public sector job losses. But the biggest percentage declines were in public safety jobs: emergency responders (-43.5%), air-traffic controllers (-28.5%), and fire fighters (-18.9%).
- ♦ The percentage of workers employed in the public sector (federal, state and local) as a share of the population is at its lowest level in over 30 years.
- ♦ If public sector employment had remained steady since the start of the recession, the economy would have an additional 1.7 million jobs and the unemployment rate would be 7.1 percent instead of 8.2 percent.

And public sector job cuts aren't just hurting workers, their families, and the economy today. The Brookings report also looks at the long-term impact on the economy of the cuts in just one area – education. **Fewer teachers mean more students per class: and**

recent research, cited in the report, finds that larger class sizes mean lower wages for today's children when they join the workforce.

But the report goes further. It does a cost-benefit analysis, comparing how much we are "saving" in teacher salaries and benefits from teacher layoffs – \$11.8 billion per year nationwide – to the lost earnings of the children whose education is being affected – \$49.3 billion. As the authors conclude, "the foregone benefits are more than four times larger than the current budget savings!"

When Congress returns in September, it will decide whether to make even deeper cuts in state and local jobs and services – or avert these cuts by making the very wealthy and corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.

<http://tinyurl.com/8bobhw2>

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### **Report: Middle class lost significant financial ground over last decade**

America's middle-class earners lost significant ground during the last decade as their incomes dropped for the first extended period since World War II, according to a report released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center. Nationwide, middle-class household incomes declined by 5 percent from 2000 to 2010, to a median of about \$69,000, the report found. Middle-class wealth – assets minus debt – plunged by 28 percent, largely due to the housing bust. The young were hit particularly hard. The report found adults under age 30 falling out of the middle class faster than most other age groups. Overall, middle-class earners saw their standing fall in relation to wealthy households, the Pew report found. The middle class controlled 45 percent of the nation's income in 2010, down from 62 percent in 1970, according to the report, titled "The Lost Decade of the Middle Class." Meanwhile, the upper class controlled 46 percent of the nation's income, up from 29 percent in 1970.

<http://tinyurl.com/952v95c>

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## Issue: Child Welfare

### **Report: States Deal With More Female Offenders**

Violent juvenile crime has fallen over the last decade — good news — but the numbers of American girls getting into trouble have continued to increase, according to a report released by the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Girls now represent 15 percent of those held in juvenile facilities and as much as 34 percent in some states," the survey by the nonpartisan Denver- and Washington, D.C.-based group found.

Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, Oregon and New Mexico have passed laws that require "gender-specific" rehabilitation programs or plans for programs for this growing female population. The number of girls accused of offenses has been on the rise for three decades, according to U.S. Department of Justice reports. For example, the arrest rate of girls for simple, or minor, assault in 2003 was more than triple the rate in 1980. This year, the Center for Public Integrity also looked into school-police policies, reporting that the Los Angeles Unified School District Police — the nation's largest school force —

issued more than 33,500 tickets to mostly low-income, Latino and black students from 2009 through 2011. More than 40 percent of tickets issued in Los Angeles went to students between 10 and 14 years old for minor offenses. The National Conference of State Legislatures' report also surveys states' policies for trying minors as adults or juveniles. In recent years, some states have moved away from the trend of trying ever-younger offenders as adults. Connecticut, Rhode Island, Missouri and Mississippi are the states that took steps to increase the age limits for keeping minors in juvenile court. Ten states set the age for juvenile jurisdiction at 16. **North Carolina and New York automatically try any minor over 16 in the adult system.** <http://njtoday.net/2012/08/08/report-states-deal-with-more-female-offenders/>

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Issue: Health Care

### **Up to 4.6 Million Women of Reproductive Age Eligible for Expanded Medicaid Coverage, Study Finds**

Women of reproductive age account for about 4.6 million of an estimated 15 million uninsured U.S. residents who could obtain coverage under the federal health reform law's (PL 111-148) Medicaid expansion, according to a study by the Urban Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CQ HealthBeat reports.

- ♦ About half of the 15 million individuals who would be eligible for coverage under the Medicaid expansion are ages 19 through 34.
- ♦ In addition, about 35% are ages 35 through 54, while about 15% are ages 55 through 64.
- ♦ Around 82%, or 12.4 million, of newly eligible adults do not have dependent children living with them, while about 53% are male, according to the study.
- ♦ The study also found that 55% of the newly eligible population is white, 19% is Hispanic, 19% is black and 7% is "another race."

<http://tinyurl.com/9c55xmk>

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The ACA will be a hot button issue in this election cycle. Learn about the details now so you can help educate other voters.

### **Medicaid Works: Public Program Continues to Provide Access to Care and Financial Protection for Society's Most Vulnerable**

The Congressional Budget Office **now projects** that 30 million previously uninsured Americans will gain coverage by 2022, 3 million fewer than had been predicted after the law was passed but before the Supreme Court decision. Post-reform Medicaid enrollment is expected to be about 6 million less than the 17 million people previously projected by the Congressional Budget Office, but an increase in enrollment through the new health insurance exchanges is expected to absorb some of that loss. **Overall, about 92 percent of the nonelderly population residing in the country legally is expected to have coverage in 2022.** Expanding coverage will reduce unrecoverable hospital debts for care of those

who were previously uninsured. This was the primary rationale for trimming annual increases in payments to hospitals under Medicare by one percentage point annually. While state policy leaders must contend with a number of issues when deciding whether to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, some well-established facts are worth considering. First, Medicaid, like Medicare, fulfills the two main purposes of health insurance—ensuring access to needed care and providing adequate financial protection from burdensome medical expenses. Evidence from a study on Medicaid enrollment in Oregon found that participants who received coverage through the program were able to visit the doctor more and reported better health and financial stability than those without coverage.

<http://tinyurl.com/8ucrvvu>

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## MSK Take Action:

### **Act Today: Make Sure Child Victims of Trafficking Get Help**

Did you know that over 200,000 children in the U.S. are at risk of being trafficked each year? And did you know you can help make sure child protection agencies can improve ways of recognizing and rescuing child trafficking victims? You can by joining Safe Horizon to support the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act, a lifesaving bill that can not only help current victims, but prevent more children from becoming victims of this brutal crime.

Support the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act today.  
[http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/6543/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=11417](http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/6543/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=11417)

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## AAUW NYS Facebook:

Remember to “like” our state Facebook page and stay up to date with all the breaking news. <http://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS> Share things from our page to yours and help us build our social network for change!

Check our daily Election Day Countdown and tip for Getting Out The Vote!

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## AAUW NYS Voices: Saturday is Women’s Equality Day!

- ◆ Amsterdam-Johnstown-Gloversville Branch event: <http://tinyurl.com/cd82mgx>
- ◆ Jamestown Branch OpEd: <http://tinyurl.com/d7kytcn>
- ◆ Kingston Branch event: <http://tinyurl.com/c9othrj>
- ◆ St. Lawrence County Branch OpEd: <http://tinyurl.com/cwssb7j>

## Share your successes!