



Public Policy and State Capitol Update

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The Three Biennial Action Priorities 2017- 2019

1. Support a strong system of **PUBLIC EDUCATION** that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
2. Achieve **ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY** for all women.
3. Guarantee equality, **INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**, and social justice for a diverse society.

2018 AAUW Strategic Plan

- **New CEO Kimberly Churches**
- **New Strategic Plan**
 - **MISSION:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
 - **VISION:** Equity for all.
 - **VALUES:** Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.
- **New 2018 Areas of Focus**
 - **Education and Training**
 - **Economic Security**
 - **Leadership**
 - **Governance and Sustainability**
- See www.aauw.org for Strategic Plan



POLITICAL UPDATE

Primary Election Highlights

- **Record turnout on August 7, 2018**
 - **> 800,000 voters over 2014 primary**
 - 2016 presidential election results
 - Increased female candidates and voters
 - Three open Congressional seats
 - **58 of the 110 House seats will see one or more female candidates running**
- **13th CD – Rashida Tlaib**
- **Betty Jean Alexander spent \$0 and didn't campaign ousts incumbent State Senator David Knezek in 15th.**

General Election Roundup

- **New voting equipment**
- **New ballot format - O**
- **No straight-party voting option**
 - **2015 law reversing 1891 tradition**
 - **Suppresses Dem votes**
 - **Produces long lines**
 - **Absentee voting urged**
 - **Officially available for only 6 reasons but clerks rarely question.**

Michigan State of Play

- **We are a trifecta state**
 - **Republicans control Governor's office, both chambers**
- **Current Republican majority.**
 - **Senate: 27 R; 10 D; 1 vacancy (4 women)**
 - **House: 63 R; 46 D; 1 vacancy (34 women)**
- **Michigan Supreme Court is Republican dominated 5-2.**

Michigan State of Play

- **Michigan House - all 110 seats are up for election.**
 - **43 are open seats (39 percent).**
 - 18 members eligible for re-election ran for the Michigan Senate.
 - **Dems need to flip 9 seats to take majority.**
 - **Rs need to retain 56 to keep majority.**

Michigan State of Play

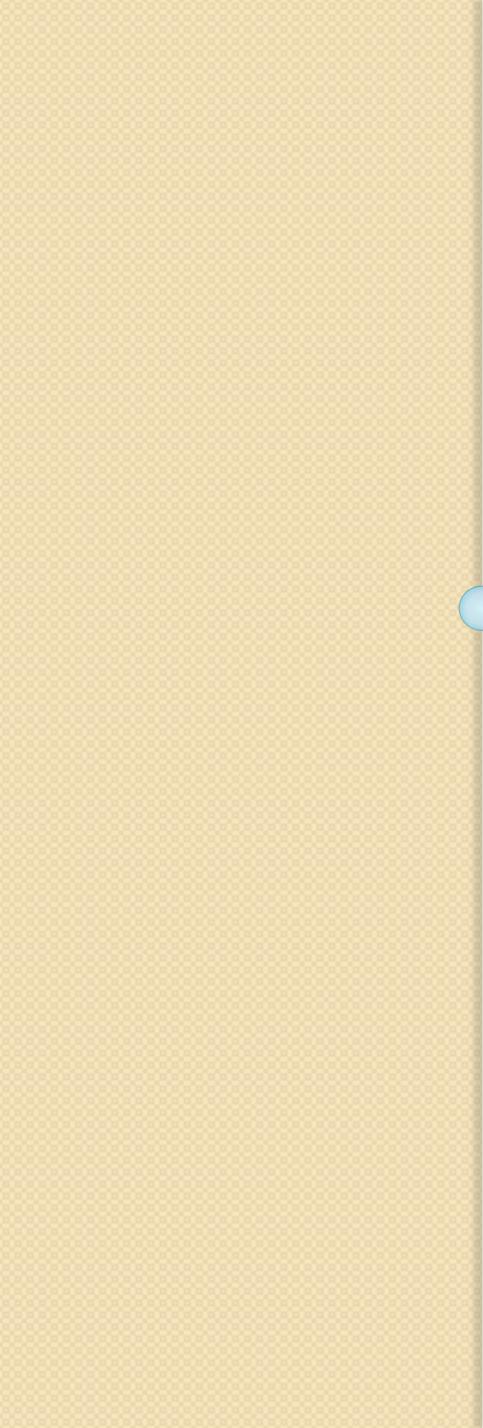
- **Michigan Senate – all 38 seats are up for election.**
 - 26 open seats (68 percent - 19 Rs, 7 Ds)
 - Rs have had the majority for 34 years.
 - **Dems need to flip 9 seats to take majority.**
 - **Rs need to retain 20 to keep majority.**
 - **Lt. Gov. can decide ties of 19-19.**

Michigan Supreme Court

- **Vote for two**
- **Non-partisan** section of the ballot
- **After State Education Boards**
- **Third column** on front of ballot
- **Party nomination not designated**
- **Two Republican incumbents running for re-election are designated**
“Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court”

Michigan Supreme Court

- Democratic Party nominees are **Samuel Bagenstos and Megan Cavanagh**
- Republican nominees are incumbents **Elizabeth T. Clement and Kurtis Wilder**
- Libertarian nominee is **Kerry Lee Morgan**
- Natural Law Party nominee is **Doug Dern**



**LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE
SINCE LAST
REPORT AND
LAME DUCK**

Education Equity – Nonpublic School Funding

- In both the FY 17 and FY 18 budgets, the Legislature approved **\$2.5 million to reimburse nonpublic schools** for compliance with health, safety, or welfare requirements mandated by Michigan law.
- Coalition lawsuit challenged the appropriation, citing Mi Constitution's ban.
- **COA held 2-1 on October 16, 2018 - state funding OK, but remanded.**
- **Likely appeal to MSC.**

Education Equity - School Safety

- In *Michigan Gun Owners v. Ann Arbor Public Schools*, MSC upheld (4-3) on July 27, 2018, **right of Michigan schools to ban firearms** on school district property.
- **SB 586 would preempt** schools from banning firearms.
 - Passed Michigan Senate on 11/17.
 - In House Judiciary Committee.
 - **May see Lame Duck action.**

Education Equity – Campus Sexual Assault

- **Fourth Campus Sexual Assault Summit** held Monday, September 24, 2018 at Western Michigan University.
- 20 Michigan higher ed institutions received \$600,000 in grants to implement sexual assault prevention programs on their campuses in FY 2018. **The FY 2019 budget allocates \$1 million for this program.**
- Colleges and universities have to provide their **annual Title IX Report**, also known as the Student Sexual Misconduct Report, issued by the Title IX Coordinator to various state officials. **Get a copy of it!**
- **Future of program after Snyder leaves office?**

Economic Equality

- **Gender pay disparity remains about 80 cents on the dollar** according to September 2018 data.
- **12 bills** introduced April 25, 2017.
- **EPD Coalition poll** of 600 active and likely November Michigan voters.
- **Asked whether support or oppose new laws to ensure that women are compensated fairly.**

Economic Equality

Poll Results:

67%	Strongly support
17%	Somewhat support
84%	TOTAL SUPPORT
11%	TOTAL OPPOSE
5%	Strongly oppose
6%	Somewhat oppose
5%	Undecided/Refused

Economic Equity

- In support of more equal pay legislative measures -
 - 74 percent of Republicans,
 - 83 percent of independents, and
 - 93 percent of Democrats.
- **Overwhelming support** in all parts of the state, in all races, religions, ages, education level, union-non-union.
- **Lowest was Republican men at 68 percent**

Save The Date:
Equal Pay Day
April 2, 2019

Individual Rights - Nassar

- Many bills to strengthen sexual assault and related laws introduced.
- House has passed 27 bills.
- Senate Judiciary Cmte cleared 24 bills.
- Lt. Gov signed two bills
 - **Extending the Statute of Limitations** for CSC 2 and 3 for victims under 18 to within 15 years after the offense or by victim's 28th birthday, whichever is later.
 - **90 day window** for Nassar victims to file.
 - Remainder of bills should be taken up in **Lame Duck with continued pressure.**

Individual Rights – Repro Rights

- **HB 4500 would count an embryo or fetus as a person when calculating the number of victims of a crime.**
 - **Passed full House 63-44**
 - **Reported from Senate Judiciary Committee**
 - **Ready for Senate floor vote, maybe in Lame Duck session.**

Individual Rights Ballot Proposals

- **Three voter-initiated laws enacted**
 - **Prevailing wage repeal**
 - **Minimum wage increase**
 - **Paid Sick Time**
- **Prop 1 - Marijuana Legalization**
- **Prop 2 – Redistricting**
- **Prop 3 - Voting Rights**

Minimum Wage and Earned Paid Sick Leave

- Legislature approved both on September 5.
- **AAUW of MI** has endorsed both.
- Legislative majority intends **to amend or repeal** these laws **in Lane Duck** if they lose one or more of their trifecta control.
- **1964 Attorney General Opinion** says Legislature can't amend until the next legislative session, but this has never been tested in court.

Prop I – Marijuana Legalization

A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers

The proposal would:

- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.
- Create a state licensing system for marijuana businesses and allow municipalities to ban or restrict them.
- Permit retail sales of marijuana and edibles subject to a 10% tax, dedicated to implementation costs, clinical trials, schools, roads, and municipalities where marijuana businesses are located.
- Change several current violations from crimes to civil infractions.

Prop 2 - Redistricting

A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress, every 10 years

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a commission of 13 registered voters randomly selected by the Secretary of State:
 - 4 each who self-identify as affiliated with the 2 major political parties; and
 - 5 who self-identify as unaffiliated with major political parties.
- Prohibit partisan officeholders and candidates, their employees, certain relatives, and lobbyists from serving as commissioners.
- Establish new redistricting criteria including geographically compact and contiguous districts of equal population, reflecting Michigan's diverse population and communities of interest. Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to political parties or candidates.

Prop 3 – Voting Rights

A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and postelection audits to the Michigan Constitution.


This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a United States citizen who is qualified to vote in Michigan to:

- Become automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines.
- Simultaneously register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day.
- Obtain an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
- Cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election.

Info Sources on Proposals

Web sites of -

- **Proponents and opponents of ballot proposals**
- **Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency**
- **Michigan House Fiscal Agency**
- **Michigan Citizens Research Council**
- **League of Women Voters**
- **MSU Agriculture Extension**



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY RESOURCES

Additional AAUW Policy Resources

- Sign up for **AAUW's Two-Minute Activist** on aauw.org where you can read a brief summary of a current issue and then click to send a letter to Congress.
- Sign up for ***Washington Update***, AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin.

Join Michigan AAUW Virtual Lobby Corps

- Periodic **conference calls** about state legislative activity
- Email **action alerts** about imminent legislative matters needing your phone call or email
- Periodic **email news** about state legislative priorities

To join, email mivoterred@aauwmi.org

Friend AAUW of Michigan on Facebook

- If you want to stay informed about the AAUW of Michigan's legislative activities, "Friend" the **AAUW of Michigan's Facebook page**
- Posts from legislative hearings
- Articles related to our public policy program issues.

AAUWMI.ORG

Under Government Relations Coordinator Section:

- **Reports to the Executive Board**
- **Email updates to Lobby Corps**
- **News stories relating to public policy**
- **AAUW written testimony at hearings on bills**
- **Pay Equity Bill list**



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AAUW of MICHIGAN

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
INTEREST AND SUPPORT
OF THE AAUW PUBLIC
POLICY PROGRAM.**