

# AAUW Youngstown Update

## April 2025



In Honor of April Fool's Day



Most of this is just a reminder of what you already know but do not forget resistance is key. Continue to contact your legislators to let them know how you feel.

"With all the craziness in Washington D.C. I'm surprised April Fool's Day isn't a federal holiday" (Quote from Maxine)

From Mark Twain: It's easier to fool people than to convince them they've been fooled."

### Our Next Meeting

April 7, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

AAUW would like to invite the public to a talk on "Overcoming the Inner Critic: Four Common Obstacles and Solutions" on Monday, April 7 at 5:30-7:30 pm at the Main Branch of the Mahoning County Public Library in Room 205. Lori Gorrell, a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation who founded Upward Solutions Coaching and Consulting in 2009, with a Master of Science in Management. She specializes in executive leadership coaching, helping professionals and organizations achieve clarity, focus, and enhanced team performance. Have you ever felt truly excited about a new opportunity, only to let self-doubt hold you back? Do you find yourself judging those closest to you or taking feedback particularly hard? Do you often focus on the worst-case scenario? These patterns are common, but they don't have to control your life. On April 7, you'll identify your personal "showstoppers" and develop tailored strategies to overcome the inner critic

## March 2025 Meeting



You missed a great meeting last month about a presentation on thinking globally and acting locally with a discussion on teaching YSU students about international politics, and describing international initiatives to improve education, health, and wellness. Pictured above are Dr. Sharon Stringer, Dr. Betty Jo Licata, Dr. Keith Lepak, Professor Emeritus of Political Science in the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Dr. Nancy Wagner, the former Director of the Centofanti School of Nursing.

## AAUW State Meeting



Saturday, April 26, 2025

AAUW Ohio Spring Conference in Association with Worthington AAUW Branch

Partnerships: The Power of We

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In Person and Online Options Lunch Onsite

All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 North High St., Worthington

## AAUW National Update

From National AAUW: If you have not heard the news, the administration has just issued an Executive Order to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. While only Congress has the authority to abolish the Department, this order is the latest in a series of attacks on student rights, educational equity, and civil rights enforcement. Here is what I say to you: AAUW remains committed to defending and promoting the value of higher education, the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and upholding our mission to advance equity for women and girls. Washington, D.C. — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump’s executive order “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities” dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

“This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education,” said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. “Eliminating the Department of Education would

decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining the government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures.”

Consequences of this action may include: Low-income students may lose vital federal financial aid that makes it possible to earn their degrees; Survivors of sexual harassment and assault on campus may see more Title IX cases dismissed and drastically weakened pathways to justice; Students with disabilities could be left without critical safeguards to protect and enforce their rights in schools. LGBTQ+ students who experience harassment and discrimination could face unsafe environments without their schools being held accountable; Student loan borrowers may be more vulnerable to abuse by predatory for-profit colleges and noncompliant servicers while facing unaffordable repayments; AAUW urges Congress to speak out against this move and protect the Department from any further cuts that could hinder enforcement of federal civil rights laws protecting students and preserving access to higher education. The cost of inaction is too high, and the futures of millions of students, especially those from marginalized communities — hang in the balance. We have launched two new funds: the Public Policy Fund and the Defend Higher Education Fund. Share with your members and donate here. If members are looking to take more action to protect higher education, urge them to write to members of Congress.



## Ohio EdChoice Voucher

Ohio's EdChoice Voucher or the private school voucher program has shown to be welfare for the wealthy. The majority of private school vouchers are for students already enrolled in private schools.

## Current National Status

- Naive and sloppy behavior by top Trump aides could have endangered US pilots. One of the worst intelligence breaches by top officials in years happened when operational details of military strikes on Yemen were posted on a group chat including National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, Vice President Vance, Defense Secretary Rubio, CIA Director Redcliff, and National Intelligence Director Gabbard. This breach may have already damaged US operations in Yemen as well as America's reputation more broadly and offered an intelligence bonanza to its enemies.
- Several agencies set up to help protect America and its citizens are being threatened with cuts and complete elimination. Examples: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), USAID, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Voice of America, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) program, and the U.S. National Science Foundation.
- “Undermining confidence in well-established vaccines that have met the high standards for quality, safety and effectiveness that have been in place for decades at FDA is irresponsible, detrimental to public health and a clear danger to our nation's health, safety, and security. Peter Marks, top FDA vaccine official (statement made as the reason for resigning from Food and Drug Administration).
- In a video statement on Greenland, Rasmussen, Denmark's Foreign Minister, acknowledged the "many accusations and many allegations" stated by VP Vance have not been well received. "Of course, we are

open to criticism but let me be completely honest – we do not appreciate the tone in which it's being delivered. This is not how you speak to your close allies." Citizens of Greenland are wearing hats that say, "Make America Go Away."

- President Trump's executive order demands changes to US elections that will significantly reshape the voting process. The order's broad scope raises fundamental questions about presidential authority over elections. The order mandates proof of US citizenship for federal election registration, restricts ballot counting to those received by Election Day, introduces new voting equipment regulations, and bans certain donations from non-citizens. These directives challenge the established balance of power between federal and state governments in managing elections, raising constitutional concerns.

From sociologist Jennifer Walter, "what is happening in our country right now exemplifies Naomi Klein's 'shock doctrine. Using chaos and crisis and rapid-fire executive orders creates a cognitive bottleneck, making it impossible for citizens and media to thoroughly analyze any single policy. Humans become passive and disengaged and make it impossible for citizens and media to thoroughly analyze any single policy. The result? Weakened democratic oversight and reduced public engagement.

### **Suggestions to help with the stress:**

- Find trusted analysts who do the heavy lifting of synthesis.
- Set boundaries: Pick 2-3 key issues you deeply care about and focus your attention there.
- Remember: Feeling overwhelmed is the point.
- Practice going slow: Wait before reacting to new policies.
- Build community: Share the cognitive load.
- Remember: They want you scattered. Your focus is resistance.

### **Who we should be contacting:**

#### **Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee.**

Tom Young, Chair (R) (614) 466-6504  
Kevin Ritter, Vice Chair (R) (614) 466-2158  
Michael Dovilla (R) (614) 466-4895  
Marilyn John (R) (614) 466-5802  
Gayle Manning (R) (614) 644-5076  
Tracy Richardson (R) (614) 466-8147  
Nick Santucci (R) (614) 466-5441  
Josh Williams (R) (614) 466-1418  
Heidi Workman (R) (614) 466-2004

#### **U. S. Representatives**

District 6–Michael Rulli 202-225-5705, Canfield 330-967-7312 [rulli.house.gov](mailto:rulli.house.gov)  
District 14–David Joyce-220-225-5731

#### **U. S. Senators**

Senator Bernie Moreno- 202-224-2315  
[moreno.senate.gov](http://moreno.senate.gov)  
Senator Jon Husted 202-224-3353  
[husted.senate.gov](http://husted.senate.gov)

**Governor**

Governor DeWine:

<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

Riffe Center, 30th floor, 77 S. High Street, Columbus OH 43215

614-466-3555, Fax 614-466-9354

**Ohio Senate****District 33**

Sen. Al Cutrona, R-Canfield

1 capital square, ground floor, 041, Coumbus, OH 43215, 614-466-8285

[ohiosenate.gov/Al\\_cutrona](http://ohiosenate.gov/Al_cutrona)

**District 32**

Sandra O'Brien

1 Capital Square, First Floor, 125, Columbus OH 43215 614-466-7182

[ohiosenate.gov/sandra\\_obrien](http://ohiosenate.gov/sandra_obrien)

**Ohio House Ohio House Speaker**

Matt Huffman (R-Lima) 614-466-6314

**Chair of Education**

Sarah Fowler-Arthur 614-466-1405

[ohiohouse.gov/members/sarah-fowler-arthur](http://ohiohouse.gov/members/sarah-fowler-arthur)

**District 58**

Rep. Lauren McNally, D-Youngstown

614-466-9435

77 S. High St, 10th floor, Columbus, OH 43215

[www.ohiohouse.gov/lauren.mcnally](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/lauren.mcnally).

[rep59@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep59@ohiohouse.gov)

**District 59**

Rep. Tex Fischer, R-Boardman

614-466-6107

77 S. High St, 13th floor, Columbus, OH 43215

[rep59@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep59@ohiohouse.gov)

**District 64**

Rep. Nick Santucci, R-Howland

614-466-5441

77 S. High St., 13th floor, Columbus, OH 43215,

[rep64@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep64@ohiohouse.gov)

**District 65**

David Thomas, R-Jefferson

614-446-3488

[rep65@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep65@ohiohouse.gov)

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By: President, Jorine Stone