

AAUW Youngstown Update Summer 2025



Update on the first meeting of the year, It was moved to **Davidson's** for a luncheon meeting on **September 6th 11-1 p.m.** We will be ordering from the menu any paying on our own. The theme for the year is **'Collaboration and Empowerment through Education.'** Thanks to Betty Jo Licata, Melissa Smith, and Linda Mohn. our Program VPs, for their careful planning and follow-through on designing the programs and making them insightful and worthwhile. with the negative climate in the country about education, and especially in Ohio, we cannot be more emphatic about protecting the importance of education. I know the Program Committee wants to consult, share, and develop their focus and ideas.

Sharon Stringer, Janet Halady, and Jorine Stone met to go over the Bylaws and set up a separate "handbook" for policies and procedures, including job descriptions and meetings for the Branch (Thank you Janet for all your work!). Please review them. We are looking for suggestions and recommendations from members before we approve the documents in September and hope to approve at least the Bylaws at the September meeting with minimal discussion. Any questions or comments, please contact a Board member.

The Board and interested members met on August 4th to review the proposed Bylaws and the Handbook created, and the proposed dates for meetings. If you have not done so, please fill out the survey BettyJo sent via email.

We have **3 free memberships (National dues)** to offer to anyone who would be interested in joining us. If you would like to submit someone's name, please check to see if they would be interested in joining AAUW after the free membership. We need to submit the names and information before the end of September.

Sharon plans to be a Table Captain at the upcoming YWCA Power of the Purse Event at Eastwood Mall Event Center on **October 15 6 pm**. Hopefully our Table will include members of our AAUW Youngstown branch. Tickets are \$50 per individual. Here is information about this event: <https://www.ywcamahoningvalley.org/ys-women>. If you are interested in being at our table, please email me individually at sharonantoniastringer@gmail.com and I will add your name to the list for the AAUW table. We need 6 people besides me!

Another upcoming event is the Women Rising Summit on **Friday, September 19, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Details on how to register at this event are included on this website <https://dandelion-inc.com/women-rising-summit/>

The potential dates and times of our meetings are listed below,

September 6 11 am-1 pm Saturday Davidsons Restaurant)

October 6 Monday 5:30-7:30 pm (Poland Library-large meeting room)

November 1 Saturday 11-1

December 6 Saturday Luncheon-11 a.m.?

No meeting in January

Feb 7 Saturday at 11 am

March 15 Saturday 11-1 (a week later because of spring break at the University?)

April 6 Monday 5:30 pm (This may be too close to Easter)

May 4 Monday 5:30 pm

June 6, Saturday Luncheon

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We are also considering Oct. 6th to be a meeting with other like-minded organizations: the LWVYO (League of Women Voters Youngstown), the Youngstown Business and Professional Women's Club, the Fund for Women & Girls, and the YWCA. Please submit it to other organizations at the Sept. meeting.

Mark your calendars:

Ohio Fall Summit is planned for **Saturday, October 11, 2025**. Details are forthcoming. The Ohio State Convention is set for **Saturday, April 25, 2026**. Planning is underway. Look for updates on the AAUW website at aauw-oh.aauw.net.



I am sorry that an update has not been made earlier, but changes are coming faster than I can keep up. This may contain old news but still bears repeating.

Updates from National:

The good news: this month, AAUW awarded \$5.3 million in fellowships and grants to 228 women and community-based projects. These investments, made possible by your giving, help break down barriers and open new doors in education, STEM, public service, and beyond.



The bad news:

AAUW and our nationwide network of members and advocates will not stop fighting until every student, regardless of gender, race, income, or zip code, has full and equal access to education, civil rights, and opportunity. Congress has passed a bill that will go down in history not as “One Big Beautiful Bill” promise fulfilled, but as a big broken promise to America’s students, working families, and especially to women.

From early learning through graduate school, this bill deals a devastating blow to educational opportunities in America. It slashes financial aid, eliminates vital student loan programs, and channels public dollars into private voucher schemes — all while doing nothing to ensure that participating schools uphold civil rights protections. Instead of expanding access, it erects new barriers that will shut out millions of students, especially women, low-income families, and communities of color. This bill makes drastic cuts to Medicaid; it threatens reproductive freedom and the health and economic security of the very people who rely on education as a path to a better future.

The “One Big Beautiful Bill” bill does not reflect the values of fairness, inclusion, or opportunity. It is a deliberate rollback of hard-won rights, passed at the expense of women’s futures and our nation’s progress. AAUW calls on the administration to reckon with what this legislation truly means and to recognize the irreversible harm it will cause to students, families, and our How goes the funding for public education: economy now and in years to come.



How is the funding for public education?????

This email is regarding: [REDACTED]
 Class: [REDACTED]

 Good Afternoon Parents,
 We are currently in a bit of pickle in math class, we are OUT of pencils! This is a math teachers nightmare coming to reality. I have a box for each class period to keep pencils in (for pencil wars) and we have been low for quite awhile now. I have given each class 25 to start with and they can contribute all they want. We are almost completely out. Given my schedule change I was going to start over fresh but we are out of pencil even in the office.
 If you have ANY pencils that need a home we will gladly put them to use in math class. I have a supply of erasers that students can borrow so no need for those if they are missing.
 If you know of any company that would be willing to donate some pencils that would also be appreciated.
 Thank you to all the Pencil elves!

From the “Harvard Crimson”- Courage has never been more needed from civil society, universities in particular. Whether it is CBS/Paramount or a batch of law firms or Ivy League schools, too many elites have chosen the path of least resistance in the face of authoritarian threats...The threat to American democracy is mounting. The Trump administration has assaulted democratic institutions, arrested opposition politicians, investigated critics, abducting people off the street, flouting due process, and politicizing the military.

Earlier this summer, the esteemed American Association of University Women (AAUW) sent out a more generalized appeal berating the Trump regime for attacking higher education. (“AAUW urges Congress, the higher education community, and civil rights advocates to push back forcefully against these political overreaches. Our nation’s future depends on higher education that is accessible, inclusive, and free from political interference.”)

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump is making good on his threats to go after the media in court, with several recent lawsuits seeking damages against major publishers over what he describes as false or misleading coverage. The companies often settle to avoid prolonged and potentially costly legal battles, even if they maintain their legal position was strong

Ohio Senate Bill 1, also known as the "Advance Ohio Higher Education Act", significantly impacts higher education in Ohio. The bill, signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine, aims to reform public higher education by restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, regulating classroom discussions on certain topics such as climate change, immigration, and abortion, and parts of history, that may make people uncomfortable; and prohibiting faculty strikes and impact faculty tenure, among other things. This bill represents an attempt by overreaching legislators to impose their will on college campuses to the detriment of our students, faculty, and the state's educational reputation. Ohio Republicans are now doubling down in their efforts to stifle true critical thinking and dismantle our education institutions. S.B. 1 will allow the state legislature to withhold or reduce funding from colleges and universities if they believe the institutions have failed to comply with these mandates. This puts the state legislature in charge of what our students are learning.

From Mark Elias, editor of Democracy Docket: "I can say with confidence that Trump never learned the difference between right and wrong, a gap in basic moral education...He does not care if actions are right. He does not care if what he is saying is wrong. He does what is best for him, damn everyone else. Forget the American people, forget our democracy, forget even his loyal followers... Sometimes, it is easy to feel helpless. Each push alert feels like the weight of the world crashing on our shoulders. Each time we turn on the news we want to turn it off and walk into the ocean. But remembering information is power. We must stay informed to protect ourselves, keep the pro-democracy movement alive and fight for our country."



At least 30 states, including Ohio, have enacted 79 restrictive voting laws, making it harder for eligible Americans to cast their ballots. The US Congress has not recently passed significant new voting rights legislation aimed at widespread restrictions, though the **SAVE Act** (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act) has been proposed and discussed. This bill, if passed, would significantly impact voter registration requirements, particularly at the federal level, by requiring documentary proof of citizenship. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act has been introduced in Congress in attempts to restore and strengthen the protection of the original VRA but still has not passed.

The Trump Administration has acted illegally and unconstitutionally in ways that weaken our democratic institutions. The latest controversy is happening in Texas where legislators have gerrymandered maps so Trump will pick up 5 more Republican Representatives. The gerrymandering will continue, including in **Ohio and Florida**, as Trump is determined to continue to control the House after the midterm elections. The Republicans admit their plan

as: “Maximum warfare, everywhere, all the time.” As the authors noted, this strategy extends far beyond redistricting. It is the GOP’s approach to the rule of law, large institutions, the media, and their political opponents.



From Ohio:
Display at Ohio State Fair -VOUCHERS ARE HURTING PUBLIC EDUCATION!!!

Ohioans visiting our booth already knew that private school vouchers were taking hundreds of millions of dollars from our underfunded public schools and giving them to private schools with zero financial or academic accountability.

They were excited to learn we won round one of our lawsuits when Franklin County Judge Jaiza Page ruled on June 24 that the EdChoice voucher program is unconstitutional on three counts.

Although Republicans in Congress have officially cut federal funds from public broadcasting, global health initiatives, and other foreign aid programs.

Bills that Governor DeWine needs to Veto

Veto #55: This law would grant county commissioners new authority to reduce a levy passed by voters for a school district or other taxing authority.

Veto #65: This law would change how the tax rate gets calculated in a way that would result in schools getting a lower guarantee of tax revenue.

Veto #66: This law would take away local authority to decide what kind of property tax levies work best in their communities.

HB 335 would take away inside millage, which is the portion of property taxes that the Ohio constitution allows local governments and schools to collect before they need to go to voters to ask for increases. This is what public schools, police and fire departments, child and senior services, and all other local agencies use for basic operating expenses. This abrupt elimination of inside millage would have far-reaching and devastating consequences on essential public services statewide, but schools and students would suffer the most. HB 335 strips communities of local revenue without offering any replacement.

Real property tax reform is fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan, ending school districts' over-reliance on school levies

Budget Conference Committee members:

The US is projected to pay \$1.2 trillion in interest on the national debt during the current fiscal year. This figure represents a significant portion of the federal budget, exceeding spending on national defense and potentially becoming the largest category of spending besides Social Security and Medicare

Editor: Jorine Stone