

AAUW Youngstown Update

September 2025



School is back in session and that is also the beginning of our calendar year for 2025-26.

September Meeting:

September 6th 11-1 p.m.

Davidson's Restaurant, 3636 Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406

We will be ordering from the menu and paying on our own We will be discussing the theme for the year is 'Collaboration and Empowerment through Education.'

The program committee will be looking for ideas on designing the programs and making them insightful and worthwhile.

News From National:

Youngstown (OH) Branch has earned a Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming and Communications & External Relations Star in the Five Star Program for FY25! This achievement reflects your branch's commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW's strategic priorities.

We are so grateful for the time and energy you and your fellow leaders devote to this work. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition and we look forward to celebrating your success further in the months ahead, including through future highlights in Membership Matters and on the AAUW website.

We have 3 free memberships (for National) by the end of September.

AAUW Strategic Plan:

Advancing Equity Through Higher Education 2025 and Beyond Our Purpose: AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education — a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding, and collective action.

Strategic Priorities:

- 1) Fund Higher Education
 - Provide grants and fellowships for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM.
 - Support women in academia and research.
 - Build networks for alums to lead and expand AAUW's impact globally.
- 2) Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace
 - Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections.
 - Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.
- 3) Strengthen AAUW's Reach
 - Support an effective network of states and branches through aligned strategies and initiatives like the Five-Star Program.
 - Grow organizational sustainability through member engagement and impact evaluation.

Call to Action:

In a time of growing challenges to education access.

This strategic plan renews our commitment to higher education as the key to equity and empowers a stronger, unified movement to create lasting change.

AAUW Fall Member Gathering:

Thursday, September 18th 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. ET Please join us for AAUW's Fall Member Gathering!

At this special event, we will:

Recognize outstanding supporters and branches
Update you to our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities
Share the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey
Provide you with the information you need to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

Recruitment Discounts and Waivers:

Coupon Codes:

- The Shape the Future Campaign discount of 50% off national dues for new members (those entirely new to AAUW or rejoining after two or more years) remains.
- Use the coupon code **STFFY26** at checkout. The report of free membership and redemption form is available through October 31st!
- The coupon codes for AAUW College/University member students are **CUStudent FY26** for Student Associates (undergraduates); **CUGradStudent FY26** for Graduate Students.

If you were unable to attend the Fall Summit on September 18, 2025, you may view the meeting using this link: [AAUW Fall Summit September 2025](#).

National, State and Local Updates

Updates or happenings that we need to be concerned about.



National:

When Donald Trump ran for president, he promised the American people we would be “winning so much [we’d] get tired of winning.” But now, it is clear: the only ones winning are billionaires, big corporations, and the well-connected. This administration has worked overtime to help corporations and the ultra-rich pocket even more profits at our expense. And to pay for it, they are taking a sledgehammer to the parts of government that help everyday people.

They are going after our healthcare; they are gutting services that millions rely upon just to survive. Ordinary people are struggling to pay rent, trying to afford medicine, and watching the cost of groceries skyrocket. Now new directives are forcing states to choose between violating privacy rights or risking SNAP funding cuts. There are concerns over collecting addresses, birth dates, and immigration statuses and taking away any privacy that people have a right to have. President Donald Trump continues to weaponize private and sensitive personal information, not to root out fraud, but to create a culture of fear where people are unwilling to apply for essential services.

Now we have the threat of Trump sending in National Guard to several cities including Chicago and Mayor Johnson responded by saying in part that he had "grave concerns about the impact of any unlawful deployment of National Guard troops to the city of Chicago," and calling Trump's approach "uncoordinated, uncalled for, and unsound." Johnson also said that deploying the National Guard in Chicago could "inflame tensions between residents and law enforcement." And I think it did. Guns in this country continue to be very problematic and should have more regulations instead of less.

Ohio's Republican governor was one of the six states that sent National Guard troops to Washington, D.C. to join the 800 troops that Donald Trump had already activated. Please contact our Governor and tell him that we do **not** want a form of martial law or an authoritarian or military government. This practice represents a suspension of civilian rule and a move toward military control over domestic affairs.



Common Cause Ohio organized a pop-up press briefing and protest at the Statehouse where they called on Governor DeWine to recall Ohio National Guard troops from Washington DC. Former State Rep. and Ret. Colonel Army JAG Adam Miller shared this important message:

"This illegal, unwarranted National Guard call up is a stain on our National Guard and our state. Keep the Guard home so they are available to help Ohio and neighboring states recover from natural disasters, floods, fires, hurricanes, and severe storms. Military service members and their families should never be used as political pawns. Governor DeWine should recall the troops immediately. He knows this entire DC take over is simply political street theater, and it's totally out of whack."



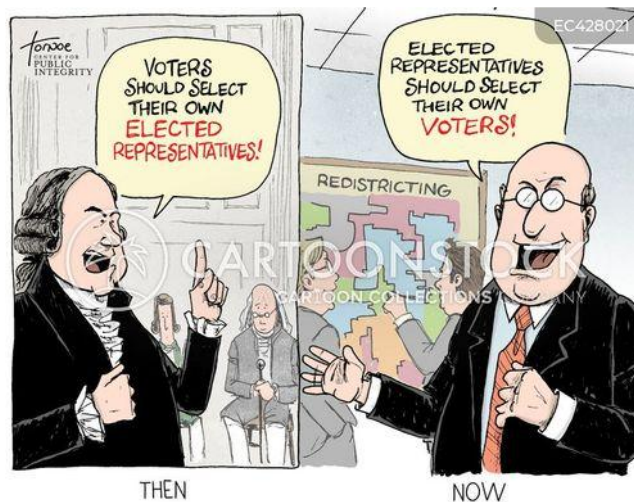
It is important to take a stand!

- Call Governor DeWine today at 614-466-3555 to tell him to recall the Ohio National Guard or email him at this link.
- Call Senator Bernie Moreno and Senator Jon Husted
- Representative Michael A. Rulli

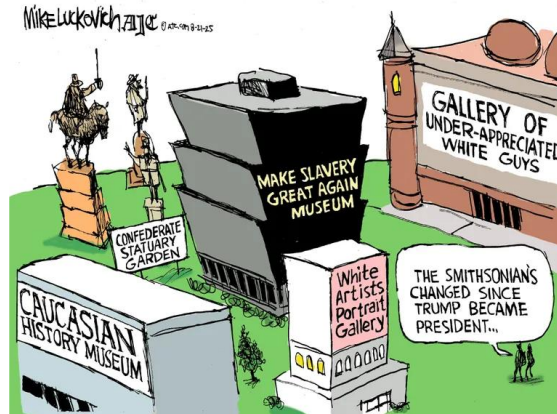
Tell them to support the *Termination Resolution, HJ Res 115*. Trump's so-called emergency in D.C. is a power grab that endangers residents who never asked for it.

If Congress fails to act, nothing will stop him from taking this nationwide. Please act now. Thank you."

The corrupt and discriminatory redistricting in Texas affects each one of us. Politicians afraid of losing power are rewriting the rules so they can hold onto it. What is happening in Texas has become a national conversation because this is not just happening in Texas. Around the country, state legislatures are attempting to redraw district lines illegally so they can decide who holds power instead of the people.



A Texas Republican lawmaker who blocked Democrats' effort to filibuster the state's gerrymander, suggested that they "shoot, shovel and shut up" to deal with immigrants. Trump's unprecedented weaponization of National Guard troops in recent months raises concerns that the administration might be beginning the groundwork to deploy troops to the polls. The White House is launching a sweeping review of Smithsonian museums to make sure they align with President Donald Trump's sanitized version of U.S. history.



In a letter to Smithsonian secretary Lonnie Bunch, three senior White House officials demanded that the museums embody “unity, progress, and enduring values that define the American story” in line with Trump’s March executive order on “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History.” The White House published a list of Smithsonian exhibits, programming and artwork it considered objectionable on Thursday, one week after announcing that eight of the institution’s museums must submit their current wall text and future exhibition plans for a comprehensive review giving museums 120 days to “replace divisive or ideologically driven language with unifying and historical accurate and constructive descriptions.”

By: Jorine Stone