

## **GOTV – Get Out the Vote**

### **Election November 3**

While the news focuses on the Presidential election, there are others running for office who have a significant if not larger impact on our lives. Neither Senator Casey nor Senator Toomey is up for election this year. However, all 18 of our Pennsylvania congressional representatives are running as are all 203 of our state representatives and half (25) of our state senators. We also have three statewide races for Attorney General, Auditor General, and Treasurer.

### **Preparing for the Election**

AAUW believes in open and fair elections and nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in elected office. AAUW materials can be used to educate your members and the community about the election issues. The [2020 Voter Issue Guide](#) provides nonpartisan information about the policy concerns that are critical to women and their families.

Use it to prompt conversations with about what's at stake in this election. Consult it to develop questions to ask your candidates and your elected officials to get them on the record on the issues that matter most.

While AAUW is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates, it is important to know where candidates stand before you cast your vote. Another AAUW resource is a [Federal Election Head to Head Voter Guide Template](#) for comparing congressional candidates. It allows you to compare candidate positions on AAUW issues like equal pay, education, campaign finance, and

reproductive rights. You can note the position of each candidate as to where they stand on each issue.

- **Support**
- **Oppose**
- **Unknown**
- **Mixed**

There is also a Head to Head Voter Guide Template that focuses on state elections. We have revised this template to reflect specific Pennsylvania issues. The template is attached to the Highlights email and will help you and your members identify candidates who support our issues and those who do not. Both templates allow you to type in the header the specific race and then enter the candidates on either side.

The issues listed in the 2020 Voter Guide and both Head to Head templates come from AAUW's 2020 Gender Agenda which lists what AAUW would like to see happen at the federal level and what states can do. We have adapted the 2020 Gender Agenda (attached to the email) to include PA specific legislation supported by AAUW-PA. Check to see if a candidate has sponsored or supports this legislation.



## Vote November 3

Pennsylvania law allows vote by mail without an excuse. Here are the steps and dates for voting this fall.

Step one - [Check your registration](#)

October 19: Last day to register to vote or update your voter registration. [Register to vote](#)

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in-ballot. However, don't wait. Do it now! [Apply for absentee or mail in ballot](#)

November 2: [Find your polling place](#) If you prefer to vote in person, be sure to check your polling place. Many were moved in the primary because of Covid-19.

November 3, 8pm: Deadline to return your voted mail-in-ballot. Complete your ballot and send it back in the postage paid return envelope as soon as you get it to avoid mail delays.

Inform branch members of these dates. Remember, **When Women Vote They Change the Conversation.**

### Heads UP for College Students

Many students are registered to vote at their campus address. If they will not be returning to campus this fall or will be leaving campus before Nov 3, they should change their registration back to their home address. You may want to contact local colleges to ask that they notify students about this.

## Black Women's Equal Pay Day

While lots of plans have been upended by Covid-19, we still have opportunities to make our voices heard. **August 13** is the day when Black women finally make what men made all last year. This is a great time to contact your legislators about pay equity. According to changes in the 5-Star program,

having a zoom call with a legislator counts as a meeting and pay equity fits the strategic plan focus area. Here are some talking points.

African American women are paid 90% of what African American men are paid, but drops to 67.8% in comparison with white men.

Occupation alone doesn't explain all of the wage gap. In an occupation such as physicians and surgeons, a traditionally male, high wage occupation, Black women are paid 54 cents for every dollar paid to white men in the same field. Even in a more female dominated occupation such as customer service representative, Black women make only 75 cents for every dollar paid to a white male doing the same job.

The pay gap impacts families as well. Eighty percent of Black mothers are the sole or primary breadwinner for their households. In Pennsylvania, Black women are typically paid \$18,643 less than white men. If the wage gap was eliminated, Black women would be able to afford 23.5 more months of child care, 12.1 additional months of health insurance for employer provided insurance, and 1.3 additional years of tuition and fees for a four-year public university.

Pursuing higher education does little to help close the wage gap. Black women with a bachelor's degree are typically paid \$46,694 - a little less than what white men with only a high school degree are paid (\$46,729). Black women must earn a Master's degree to make slightly more (\$56,072) than white men with an Associate's degree (\$54,620).

