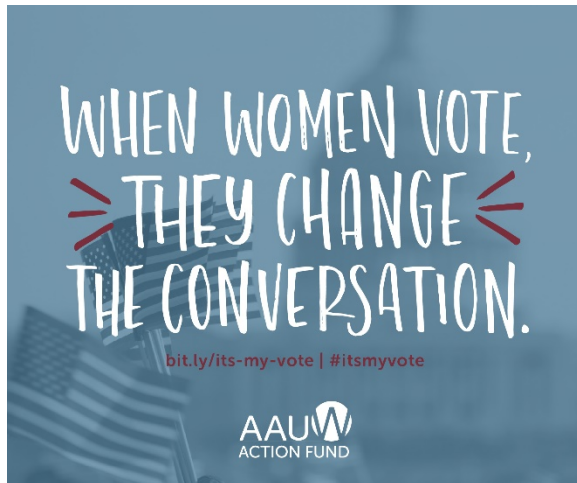


GOTV – Get Out the Vote



PA Supreme Court Decision on Voting Access

- the Green Party’s candidate for president will not appear on the ballot.
- mail-in ballots can be accepted until Nov. 6 at 5 pm as long as they are postmarked Nov. 3.
- secure drop boxes for ballots are allowed.
- ballots must use both the inner security and outer mail envelopes.*
- only residents of a county may serve as poll watchers at that county’s voting sites.

*Mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania have three parts plus instructions. Thoroughly read the instructions

- ballot to cast your vote
- secrecy envelope that says has “Official Mail-in Ballot” in which you place your ballot
- declaration envelope in which you place the secrecy-envelope and then sign.

Mailing the ballot without the secrecy envelope, but still within the declaration

envelope means your vote will not count. Other issues that might disqualify your ballot are:

- Giving a new or different address
- Writing a different version of your name such as shortening it
- No signature, a partial signature or in the wrong place
- Putting a birth date or impossible date on the signature line such as after the election.

New guidance from Pennsylvania’s Department of State indicates that state law does not allow counties to set aside mail-in ballots based on their signature.

Mail the whole package without the instructions to your county election office listed on the front of the declaration envelope. No need for postage as Gov. Wolf decided to have the commonwealth cover the costs as a way to increase mail-in voting accessibility.

Don’t trust the mail? Return your mail-in ballot package in-person at your county election offices or temporary satellite offices. Check your county Board of Elections for time and location.

Day of the Election

If you are in line by 8:00PM when polls close, the polling location must allow you to vote. COVID 19 is not an excuse to deny or discriminate otherwise.

If you or anyone you know encounters problems while voting call 866-our-vote (866-687-8683) for Election Protection 2020. The Pennsylvania Election Protection

Coalition is a nonpartisan effort to ensure every eligible voter can vote. The hotline is staffed by the Lawyers Committee Civil Rights.

This election is different from all others. Challenges continue to pop up. Another opportunity to learn about the election will be available on **October 5, 2020 7:30 to 9:00 PM** when the AAUW-PA District Coordinators present **Voting 2020 The Good – The Bad -The Ugly** with Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. This is a Zoom Webinar and registration is required. Register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f2WVfmSQSGm_xeUvXI5Bg

Check out our count down to the election on the AAUW-PA Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPennsylvania>

Pay Equity

The new pay equity numbers by congressional district are out, and there is good news and bad news. The good news is that in general salaries increased. The median earnings for men in Pennsylvania increased from \$53,269 to \$55,221, an increase of \$1,952 or 4%. Women's median earnings went from \$43,243 to \$43,791, an increase of \$548 or 1%. Unfortunately, income in Pennsylvania did not increase as much as in other states or for women compared to men, which means we fell from an earnings ratio of 81% or 21st out of all the states last year to 79% or 32nd out of all the states and the District of Columbia this year.

When comparing each of our congressional districts this year to last year, men's earnings increased in sixteen districts ranging from a low of .3% to a high of 8.3%. The loss of earnings for men in the remaining two districts was 2.1% and 6.4%. Women's earnings only increased in 13 districts ranging from a low of .03% to a

high of 8.5%. The loss of earnings for women ranged from .8% to 6.7%. The chart for last year and the new one is attached so you can compare your congressional district.

These numbers are based on all women and are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 which of course does not include any data from this spring's impact on wages by Covid-19. The numbers for Pennsylvania are not broken down by race or ethnicity, but we know that the ratios for women of color are much worse.

October 29 is Latina Women's Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day when Latina women's earnings "catch up" to non-Hispanic white men's earnings from the previous year. According to the new national pay equity numbers, Latinas saw a small increase from 54 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, to 55 cents in 2019. That means it takes Latinas ten additional months in order to be paid what the average non-Hispanic white man took home by December 31, 2019.

While we do not have the new numbers for Pennsylvania's Latinas we know that last year the pay gap was 57%. If the wage gap were eliminated a working Latina woman would have enough money on average to purchase 29.5 additional months of child care, 25.8 additional months of rent and 1.6 additional years of tuition and fees for a four-year public university. You can mark this day by sending the new pay equity numbers to your legislators or use them to ask a question about pay equity in any debates that may be happening.



Judicial Gerrymandering

What? Yes, you read that right. We usually prefer to use the term redistricting, but this is different than the push to have districts fairly designed to represent voters.

HB 196, is a proposed constitutional amendment to change how we elect judges to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Commonwealth Court and Superior Court. Instead of electing judges statewide, we would elect them in districts created by the General Assembly. This would allow legislators to gerrymander districts to give one or another party an advantage in winning judicial elections. This might even make it more difficult to put the best-qualified judges on the bench.

You can find talking points and more details on the web site of the Keystone Research Center and PA Budget and Policy Center. <https://krc-pbpc.org/talking-points-judicial-gerrymandering/>

A quick video explaining judicial gerrymandering is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jxID6kCOARPCBaAXCq3Aw5pAAEI86FDk/view>

Keep in Touch

We know it is difficult at this time to do public policy as we usually do. However, many legislators are doing town halls by Zoom or even live streaming on Facebook. Both of these platforms allow you to ask questions. Even if they do not have office hours, they are only a phone call or email away. You can still let them know what issues are important to you. Let us know if you have done any virtual or phone meetings with legislators or are planning any candidate forums. It is possible to still do public policy in the midst of a pandemic. Perhaps it is even more important to do so. Check out what the Carlisle Branch did with all the information on the election that was

in the August issue of Highlights and the notes from our September BPPC Zoom call. They sent this to their members.

“To see guides for the *Presidential, Vice Presidential and U.S. House of Representatives* races in your district, click here: <https://carlisle-pa.aauw.net/november-2020-candidate-voter-guides/>”

As always, we are here to answer your questions and are only an email away. Hopefully this finds you all well and staying safe.

Jacqui aauwpapp2@gmail.com

and

Barbara aauwpapp1@gmail.com