



## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Hello Advocates!

It has been a busy fall but we need to focus on some very important items this month! We will be having a Public Policy Counterpart meeting on October 26, 2023 at 7 pm. Zoom link will be sent soon. Please save the date!

***Election Time!!*** Mail-in ballots have started to arrive around the state and there are critical elections on the ballot this fall.

General Election Information from the League of Women Voters:

A graphic with a light blue background and four dark purple rounded rectangular callouts. The callouts contain the following text: "October 23: Registration Deadline", "October 31: Last day to request mail-in ballot", "October 31: Recommended last day to send mail-in ballot", and "November 7: Election day!". At the bottom center is a dark purple rounded rectangle with the text "Click here to register!". In the bottom right corner is a dark purple circle with the white text "LWV" and a white underline.

Judicial Races: This year, we have important statewide judicial offices up for election and retention. These judges have ruled on important priorities of AAUW



candidates and Education Voters of PA has guidance about the elections and what to look for in a candidate's profile. There are several blogs and resources here:

[You searched for school boards - Education Voters PA \(edvoterspa.org\)](#)

[SCHOOL BOARDS - Education Voters PA \(edvoterspa.org\)](#)

**Education Update:** The Basic Education Funding Commission is holding hearings throughout the Commonwealth. The Governor has stated that he believes that this commission is the table to reach the resolution to the school funding lawsuit. Visit here to watch the hearings and to submit public comments: [Basic Education Funding Commission | Home](#). Also, visit PA Schools Work to learn about the work that advocates are doing around the Commission: [Basic Education Funding Commission - PA Schools Work](#).

**Pennsylvanians for Welcoming and Inclusive Schools (PA WInS):**

The PA WInS Coalition is now accepting organizations to sign on as members and the Coalition continues to support parents and advocates around the state by sharing information and resources as they continue to battle the extremism that is occurring in our schools. The new website will be up shortly and will be shared in the next Keystoner.

There is a new report on book bans that covers some of the culture wars. [Moms for Liberty: Where are they, and are they winning? | Brookings](#)

**Fix Harrisburg:** Fix Harrisburg released their newest report at an event in Harrisburg on October 3rd. The report reviewed the work of our General Assembly for the first six months of the year. Visit the website to endorse their work: [FixHarrisburg | Reform the Rules | Pennsylvania | #Fix Harrisburg](#) and the report can be found here: [e99b5e\\_76f0b259d8b54bb0b7d567b584daec24.pdf \(fixharrisburg.com\)](#).

**Paid Leave:** Children First released a report in September that outlines the benefits and support for Paid Leave in Pennsylvania. This report outlines the successes in nearby states and how employers have embraced the program as it is implemented. [CF paid family leave report \(childrenfirstpa.org\)](#)

## ***Pay Equity***

We do not have new data by state detailing the wage gap. Here is where Pennsylvania stands as of March 2023 according to the National Women’s Law Center. These numbers are based on data from 2021. Pennsylvania is ranked 24<sup>th</sup> out of all the states. AAUW along with all the groups working on pay equity are now including part-time and part-year workers in the comparisons. This is significant because the labor market shifted dramatically in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. The data shows what women make compared to the dollar that men make.

	Full-time year-round workers	Part-time & Part-year workers
All women	.81	.71
Black women	.65	.39
Latinas	.56	.49
Asian Women	.91	.68

The Family Care Coalition is having an event with Senator Collett and other guest speakers. It will be held in Lansdale on November 2 at the Cardinal Hollow Winery.

Senator Collette is one of the sponsors of the Family Care Act. For those in the area, [Register here](#)

## ***ERA Update:***

Kathy Gates, AAUW member attended the Zonta Club District 3 Conference. One of the highlights was a presentation of the ERA NOW and the panel of advocates for passing the Equal Rights Amendment into the Constitution. The panelists were Carolyn Maloney - NY Congresswoman who for years has been an advocate for the ERA movement, Eleanor Smeal - Former NOW President, Lisa

Sales - Current NOW President for Virginia, and Zakiya Thomas - President of the ERA Coalition and Fund for Woman's Equality.

They encouraged all of us to sign the petition to support the Equal Rights Amendment. Now is the time to get this included in the Constitution. If you would like to support this effort, see [Sign4ERA.org](http://Sign4ERA.org).

See [here](#) for full October Highlights with pictures!