

## **2022-2024 AAUW-VA Public Policy Priorities**

The covid-19 pandemic laid bare the inequities of our nation and took a disproportionate toll on women, most notably women of color, thereby compounding the historic economic disadvantages that they have faced. These inequities will persist for years to come without policies and legislation that resolve them. The following priorities provide a basis for AAUW of Virginia members' actions at the local and state levels.

### **Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice**

- Support actions to make the ERA the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- Support full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and voting rights and an amendment to Virginia's Constitution that affirms the right to vote
- Support measures to ensure fair, nonpartisan redistricting and transparency in government
- Support self-determination of women's health decisions, including reproductive rights
- Advocate for freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and human trafficking
- Advocate for diversity and inclusion as mission-based values

### **Economic Security**

- Support adoption of measures to close the gender pay gap and promote fairness in compensation and benefits
- Support equitable access and advancement in employment and leadership opportunities for women
- Advocate and promote support for quality, affordable health care and childcare; paid family and medical leave and paid sick days; family planning services; and senior care and services
- Support a livable minimum wage standard and policies and programs to eliminate food and housing insecurities

### **Education**

- Support Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education and the enforcement of such laws
- Support adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students in order to reduce educational disparities and ensure students have equitable access to distance learning and school meals
- Oppose use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and to charter schools that do not adhere to the civil rights and accountability standards required of other public schools
- Promote and protect programs that meet the educational needs of girls and women at all levels, including STEM fields
- Support increased access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations