

**2022 AAUW-WA
Candidate Comparison by Issues Template**

District: Race: Challenger Name	Where the candidates stand on:	District: Race: Incumbent <u>Name</u>
Economic Security		
	Pay Equity: Address identified barriers to equal pay, including salary transparency. See SB 5761 .	(voting record) ¹
	Paid Family and Medical Leave: Maintain and improve paid family and medical leave policies. See SB 5649 .	
Education		
	K-12: Prohibit taxpayer dollars to fund private or religious schools through voucher programs. See “School Choice- Voucher” bills. K-12: Capital Gains tax provides support for Education; the first \$350 million dedicated to the Education Legacy Trust Account. See SB 5096 .	
	Student debt: Provide low-interest (1%) state student loans. See HB1736 . Affordable college: Expand state grant program by modifying the income eligibility; additional stipend for expenses like childcare, transportation. See HB 1659 .	
	Curriculum: Require comprehensive sexual health education in public schools. See SB5395 .	
Civil Rights		
	Reproductive Rights: Protect access to abortion care See HB 1851 .	
	Voting Rights: Restore or expand citizens’ right to vote. See Voters’ Rights/Election-related bills .	
	Voting Rights: transparency and truthfulness HB 1453 and SB 5843 . ²	
<i>This guide is a public service and is not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. Candidates’ positions were determined using their legislative and/or executive record, public statements, campaign position statements, public candidate forums and interviews and other published information from credible sources.</i>		

¹ See [AAUW-WA Public Policy Candidate Comparison Tools webpage](#)

² **Voting Rights:** transparency and truthfulness can be a hard thing to objectively determine but we think it is worth exploring.

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Support: Candidate has explicitly stated their support for this policy position on the record with no ambiguity, through statements, co-sponsorship, and/or votes. It is helpful to add a note Support (voting record) or Support (campaign platform)

Oppose: Candidate has explicitly stated their opposition to this policy position on the record with no ambiguity, through statements and/or votes. It is helpful to add a note Support (voting record) or Support (campaign platform)

Unknown: The candidate has not explicitly stated their support or opposition to this policy position on the record.

Mixed: The candidate has made conflicting statements and/or has taken conflicting votes on this policy position.

Instructions

It's easy to determine an **incumbent's position** using their voting record. See the Legislators' Voting Record Spreadsheet on AAUW issues on the [Candidate Comparison Tools](#) webpage or click on the bill link in the template. You can review your legislators Bio and voting record on Lobby Day bills here https://www.billtrack50.com/public/scorecard/summary/a_IYEhaQUUigAr17sM2kJw.

To determine a **challenger's position** takes a little more sleuthing but shouldn't be too hard. Check their candidate statement, campaign website and social media. You can use trusted media interviews that quote them, or watch a recorded candidate forum and listen for keywords. See Key Words in our [AAUW Voters Issues Guide](#).

This year we included transparency and truthfulness as a category by using two Voting Rights bills that focus on transparency and truthfulness.

If you can't find a candidate position, use unknown, come back to it later or ask the candidate yourself! Consider submitting an AAUW question to candidate forum hosts so we can get AAUW issues included in the forums. See suggested questions for each issue below.

Getting to know the candidates using our issues comparison during the election process is time well spent. It sets the groundwork for our advocacy efforts during the session with the elected legislator. It also helps us better understand the range of positions on AAUW Issues in each district.

Quick Facts on AAUW-WA Candidate Comparison Issues provides a summary of each issue. Be sure and check out AAUW's series "[Where We Stand on . . .](#)". for a deep dive.

- Economic Security: [Where we Stand on Equal Pay](#); [Where we Stand on Paid Leave](#).
- Education: [Where we Stand on School Vouchers](#); [Where we Stand on Higher Education](#).
- Civil Rights: [Where we Stand on Reproductive Rights](#); [Where we Stand on Voting Rights](#).

How the Template Issues Statements were chosen

We based the issues statements on bills that AAUW support in 2021-2022 that highlight a KEY AAUW National Issue.

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Candidate Comparison Follow-up Questions

Here are some ideas for questions to ask candidates to help you fill the template.

For a brief review of an Issue for WA-State see AAUW-WA Quick Facts Sheets at our [Public Policy Webpage](#).

Economic Security

Equal Pay

Equal Pay Q1: What factors do you think contribute to the gender pay gap? Do you support passage of legislation to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of existing civil rights laws aimed at closing the pay gap between men and women?

Equal Pay Q2: What factors do you think contribute to a racial pay gap? What policies would you support to close the racial pay gap in Washington state. For example, would you support amending the Gender Pay Equity law [49.58.020](#) to include Gender and Racial Pay Equity?

Equal Pay Q3: Would you support legislation to close the loopholes in our salary history legislation? What role should the state have in educating employees about state labor laws?

Federal Equal Pay Q1: What federal policies would you support to help close the pay gap? Do you support our state gender pay equity legislation?

Federal Equal Pay Q2: Do you support a federal rule targeted to federal contractors that bans salary history or a more general rule that applies to a wider group of employers? Should small businesses be exempt? If so, how would you define a small business and why should they be exempt?

Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

PFML Q1: What is your position on Paid Family and Medical Leave, and how important do you think this program is in our state. What policy changes would you support related to PFML?

PFML Q2: Do you support exemptions from labor laws for small business? If so, what do you consider a small business?

Federal PFML Q1: What is your position on federal policies to support Paid Family and Medical Leave? Will you commit to working to pass the FAMILY Act and the Healthy Family Act?

Federal PFML Q2: What is your position on our Washington state Paid Family and Medical Leave policies that include an expanded definition of family and exemption for small businesses?

Education

School Choice Q1: What is your position on "school choice" and the current learning options offered within our state public educational system today? What legislative changes would you consider supporting or opposing related to school choice?

Federal School Choice Q1: What is your position on school choice? How do you think it will impact WA state public schools if enacted?

Funding Education Q1: What ideas do you have to support public education funding in the future?

Student Debt Q1: What is your position on student debt? Do you support the state providing low-interest student loans? What about the free community college programs?

Federal Student Debt Q1: What is your position on student loan debt forgiveness?

Curriculum Q1: What is your position on the legislature's role in establishing curriculum in public schools compared to school board's role, a parent's role or an educator/professional's role?

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Sexual Health Education Q1: What is your position on the comprehensive sexual health education curriculum in public schools?

Federal Curriculum Q1: What is your position on "parental rights" with regards to school curriculum and sexual health education, critical race theory or gender identity.

Civil Rights

Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Right Q1: What legislation would you support, or oppose, regarding access to abortion? Please explain.

Reproductive Rights Q2: Some states have passed legislation to require hospitals to post information about available reproductive services. Other states have introduced bills to regulate misinformation or misleading advertising at Crisis Pregnancy Centers. What legislation would you support or oppose to protect healthcare consumers from deceptive practices or lack of transparency in services offered?

Hospital Merger Q: How concerned are you about a Catholic Health Care System owning 40% of the hospital beds in our state, and the impact it has on access, quality and cost of care in your district.

Misinformation about Abortion Q: What legislation would you support or oppose to protect healthcare consumers from deceptive practices or lack of transparency in services offered? For example crisis pregnancy centers that falsely advertise as if they provide abortion services.

Federal Reproductive Rights Q1: "What legislation would you support, or oppose, regarding access to abortion? Please explain."

Federal Reproductive Rights Q1: What legislation would you support or oppose to protect healthcare consumers from deceptive practices or lack of transparency in services offered?"

Federal Question: The Stop Anti-Abortion Disinformation Act was introduced recently to address the concern about false abortion information and deceptive practices by Crisis Pregnancy Centers. What legislation would you support, or oppose regarding regulating Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Do you think they should receive federal and/or state funding?

Voting Rights

AAUW-WA did not vet any voting rights bills in 2021 or 2022 but did follow bills. See [Voters' Rights/Election-related bills](#).

Voting Rights Q1: What legislation would you support, or oppose, regarding changes to our mail-in voting laws?

We passed a bill last session, [HB 1876](#) requiring the fiscal impact of initiatives to be included in the ballot statement for transparency. A bill to [SB 5843](#) was introduced to prohibit candidates from knowingly, recklessly, or maliciously making false statements related to elections was also introduced.

Transparency and Truthfulness Q: What legislation would you support, or oppose, regarding prohibiting false or malicious statements related to elections?