

Bylaws Briefings

Jan Van Gasse, AAUWMI Bylaws Director

Open Membership Bylaws Vote

There will be a vote in 2024 to drop AAUW's degree requirement for membership. The vote will begin on April 3, 2024. Please look at <https://openupaauw.org/> for information about the history of AAUW and its membership requirements. You will also find a signup form for supporters.

As we look at open membership, it is important to consider our mission/purpose, vision, and values.

Purpose	To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
Vision	Equity for all.
Values	Nonpartisan. Face-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

The push to open membership is to align our mission/purpose, vision, and values with our restrictive and non-inclusive membership requirement. We cannot be champions for equity while treating people unequally.

As mentioned in the Summer/Fall newsletter, the majority of branch members and national members supported the change for open membership in 2021, with national members slightly more in favor of the change. However, we must increase participation in the vote. Nationally, 28.62% of branch members voted in 2021, with 62.85% of them voting affirmatively. 7.94% of national members voted in 2021, with 65.69% of them voting affirmatively.

30.2% of Michigan branch members voted in 2021, with 63.75% voting affirmatively. 5.8% of national members in Michigan voted, with 69.7% of them voting affirmatively. Jan Van Gasse, Bylaws Director, has communicated with each branch president as to the percentage of branch members that voted in their individual branch and how many voted affirmatively.

A national Open Membership Task Force has been appointed and Jan is currently serving on this task force. We are encouraging each branch to discuss open membership and to listen to each other. We need to increase the number voting. We plan to provide talking points, PowerPoints and other tools for outreach.

Questions should be directed to info@openupaauw.org