

***There's much work to be done.
We shouldn't have to depend
on college graduates to do it.***



OpenUpAAUW.org asks the question are we defined by college degree requirements or the fight for gender equity? AAUW members around the country will be voting on proposed National bylaw changes to fully open AAUW membership to anybody who supports AAUW's mission and values.

OUR MISSION

Gender Equity & Economic Security

We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues: Women still get just 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.

OUR VALUES

Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

The AAUW National Board of Directors and the Governance Committee are bringing an amendment forward to **eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. An amendment to the bylaws requires 5% of eligible members (1,970) to vote and a two-thirds majority of voters to pass.**

Key Dates for the 2024 Vote

AAUW is utilizing *SimplyVoting.com*, an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote.

April 3 | Voting opens. Look for your encrypted ballot email from Simply Voting, **Check your spam folder.**

May 15 | Online voting ends at 12 noon ET and results will be announced online.

All members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW National emails will receive a paper ballot by mail.

Break Our Own Barrier

Open Up AAUW firmly believes that:

- it is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls, and
- we will finally align our membership requirements with our mission and values.

Haven't we done this before?

- **Yes! 23% of AAUW members voted in 2021** (5% of eligible members are required)
 - **63% approved of Open Membership** (66.67 approval is required)

If you want to check out the prior history of this issue please click on the [Open Up AAUW](#) website. Many members have worked diligently to bring us to this moment. Also, you can find more information and how you can get involved on the *Open Up AAUW* website.

OpenUpAAUW.org "FAQ"

Does this devalue our support for higher education?

NO. We can change and keep strongly rooted in our commitment to higher education as a path to success as well as our support for fellowships and grants. This change allows those who have taken parallel paths to join our work for gender equity.

Won't we have to change our name?

NO. We'll be "AAUW" - It's a national organization that works for gender equity. It originates from 1881 and an effort **then** to open up women's access to advancement in universities.

Commonly held differences in perspective between those who oppose open membership and those who support it:

Oppose Open Membership

1. Those who think of AAUW as a professional society.
2. Those who think a degree is a specific credential that confers special status and intellectual level.
3. Those who think that the credentials of our members add credibility to the positions we support.
4. Those who think the "U" in the acronym defines the organization and can't imagine a change in membership requirement without a name change.

Support Open Membership

1. Those for whom AAUW is distinctly different from the professional societies to which they belong.
2. Those who think there are many ways to gain equivalent skills and knowledge in today's world.
3. Those who believe broad-based support for our positions would make us stronger and support a culture of equity.
4. Those who compare the "U" to the YMCA's, FFA's, and IBM's acronyms. AAUW was founded in 1881. Valuable brand recognition and a reputation that is separate from a modern-day membership requirement.

As a member of AAUW, your voice and your vote count!!