



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

February 2024

Dear AAUW Delaware Members,

Once again, AAUW members are being asked to give considerable thought to doing away with the degree requirement and opening membership to AAUW to all. How important is your AAUW vote? I believe it is of great importance for all our voices to be heard. In 2021, more than 60% of the voters approved the change. Fewer than 10% of the members voted against it. Fewer than 25% of all members voted. **In Delaware approximately 57% voted for the change however, only 17% of members voted.**

The AAUW Delaware Board met in January and a majority voted in favor of opening membership to all. We are a diverse group with diverse opinions on this and all should be respected. I encourage all branches to discuss the upcoming vote and consider the following points.

- AAUW's stated mission is "to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." This change allows AAUW to be stronger and truer to our vision of Equity for all.
- Our Value Statement states "Inclusion and Intersectionality." This change allows AAUW to become stronger by being a more inclusive organization.
- Education and advocacy always have been and will continue to be a focus to our mission. We want to include those with and without degrees in our work, and open membership could welcome even more advocates, which will make our impact stronger.
- We'll still be "AAUW". When asked "What's AAUW?", say you are part of a national membership organization that works for gender equity then describe your local branch. Just like IBM (International Business Machines) and YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), the name remains the same as the company/organization has modernized.
- As AAUW has changed to adapt to the changing world, its membership requirements have changed many times to become more inclusive. This change would allow all who support our mission to stand with us.
- Those without degrees fight for gender equity just as we do. We can be stronger advocates as we learn more about their battles and their alternate paths to success.



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The first information about the amendment was sent to you via email on Monday, Jan. 8. If you didn't get it, [check these tips](#) to make sure AAUW can reach you.

All voting will take place online starting April 3. AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. All members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW national emails will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period. Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:00 pm ET.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any assistance.

In closing, I hope you will consider the above points, but most importantly, **please vote!**

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