

President's Message

Patti Melsheimer, February President

Do you remember when you joined AAUW? Did you originally join this AAUW Branch (Five Cities-Pismo Beach) or did you originally join a Branch in another city and transfer to this branch when you moved here? And why did you join? Was it because a friend invited you or did you attend a meeting as a guest or did you see an article in the local newspaper about a topic of interest?

Today our Branch, as well as many others, are struggling to “keep afloat”! There are many organizations asking for our participation, our money, and our support! It has become necessary for many of us to prioritize our time and our efforts! This past summer we all had to make decisions about whether the Five- Cities Pismo Beach Branch would continue to exist. Our Nominating Committee worked very hard at trying to secure new officers. We finally came up with a “creative” plan to “share” the Presidential responsibilities for this year.

Soon it will be time to again consider who will be our officers for 2026-27. In this time of upheaval and confusion about our priorities, I hope each of you will think about the importance of AAUW as an organization and how we can further its causes. If you have read any of the recent emails that have been sent from both our California and National organizations, you must realize that AAUW is addressing some of the issues critical to our country – whether we will continue to have a Department of Education, whether local School Boards will be fairly operated, whether women and minorities will again be pushed aside. AAUW has taken bold stands on many of these issues, but it cannot continue if we do not support it. The Public Policy Symposium “The School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy” being shown on Saturday, January 31st is a good example.

Consider what ways you will support our local Branch. Think about which office you would be willing to accept!

February Events

- 2 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom
- 5 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch: Adelina's Bistro, Nipomo
- 6 11:30 a.m. Daytime Page Turners: Patti Melsheimer's home
- 7 11:30 Interbranch Council: Mission Club Vandenberg Village, page 2
- 10 6:30 p.m. Night Readers: Joan Florence's home
- 18 12:30 p.m. Finessing Femmes Bridge: Mary Lou Allison's home
- 21 10:00 a.m. General Meeting: Art Experience with SLO AAUW, page 3
- 23 7:00 p.m. Great Decisions: Location to be announced

February Birthdays

Erica Hinojosa

March Preview

- 2 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom
- 5 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch: SizzlinGogi, Santa Maria
- 21 10:00 a.m. General Meeting: Five Cities Homeless Coalition: Mesa View Club House

FEBRUARY 2, 2026 BOARD MEETING

The February Board meeting will be held Monday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you or your committee have an action item to place on the agenda, forward it to Patti Melsheimer, pattimelsh@charter.net, by January 29 for it to be considered at this meeting.

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL GUEST SPEAKER FEBRUARY 7

 **AAUW SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON

RESEARCH. EDUCATION. ADVOCACY.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 | 11:30 AM



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:

GLORIA L. BLACKWELL

AAUW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TICKETS: \$35 @ THE MISSION CLUB **4300 CLUB HOUSE ROAD
NEAR VANDENBERG VILLAGE**

INCLUDES SANDWICH BAR, SALAD, DESSERT, & BEVERAGE

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026
TO ANITA AT SASTURM@COMCAST.NET.
SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO SB-GV AAUW TO:
ANITA STURM, 203 HITCHCOCK WAY #111
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105

If the reservation deadline has passed and you want to attend, email the contact to see if there is space.

FEBRUARY 21, SATURDAY GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.

Meeting Location and Topic Change

Have you noticed? We are changing our planned program for the February 21, Saturday AAUW meeting. Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch has accepted an invitation to join the AAUW San Luis Obispo Branch for our February 21st General meeting, which was scheduled for the same date and time. Our originally scheduled topic on The Homeless Coalition will be in March.

We are joining the San Luis Obispo AAUW Branch for their meeting an Art Exploration Experience featuring a local art gallery and private tour of the recently renovated San Luis Obispo Art Museum

Saturday February 21, 2026 10:00 am

At 10:00 a.m. meet at the EDNA Contemporary Fine Art, 967 Osos St., San Luis Obispo.

Enjoy an introduction to the world of women artists by Sheryl, gallery owner.

<https://www.ednacontemporary.com/> A continental breakfast of coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, juice, and water will be provided. A payment of \$5.00 at the door will cover refreshments.

A short walk to the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art at 1010 Broad Street will bring us to an 11:00 am docent led tour by Susan Sacks, who will also highlight women artists. <https://sloma.org/> The tour should conclude by 12 noon. Questions, arranging of car pools and RSVP by Tuesday, February 17 to Jean Burns Slater jbslater2006@gmail.com

BINGO SILENT AUCTION EVALUATION

We recently sent out a questionnaire/survey concerning last year's fundraiser—Bingo & Silent Auction via email. You can copy and write your responses, or print it out and mail it to us. We will have copies of the questionnaire/survey at the General Meeting as well.

We value your opinions and concerns. So please return the survey to us as soon as possible.

Thank you Pam Zirion, Kathy Cohan Co Chairs

JANUARY 24 GENERAL MEETING

The January general meeting was well attended with 20 participants featuring Ed Cabrera from the League of Women Voters discussing the challenges facing our voting rights and general elections. Staying informed is the responsibility of all citizens in a democratic government.



MARCH 21 GENERAL MEETING TOPIC:

HOMELESS and AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We, as a community organization, will be discussing the lack of affordable housing at our March general meeting. Women and children are often the unhoused, which directly affects the advancement of women and girls, our Mission. See below suggestions on this topic from the City of San Luis Obispo.

In an effort to continue to empower and inform community members on local homelessness resources and how to access them, the City of San Luis Obispo is highlighting essential resources available to those in need. These vital services include overnight shelter, medical care, pet services, and more through service providers who can maintain continued support for unhoused individuals.

The City encourages all residents, whether directly impacted by homelessness or looking to assist others, to explore and share these resources.



SAN LUIS OBISPO HOMELESS RESOURCES

www.slocity.org/homelessness

What kind of services do you need?

Somewhere to Sleep

40 Prado Homeless Services Center
Call ahead to be placed on bed list
(ID Required). Access Center: M-F 8am – 4pm
(805) 544-4004, 40 Prado Rd, SLO
Bus Stop: 2A-Prado at Elks

Have a car? Ask about safe parking!
The 40 Prado Safe Parking program offers
individuals living in their cars a safe place to park
overnight. Case management required.

Food

SLO Food Bank
(805) 238-4664
Mon, Wed, & Fri: 12 – 5 p.m.
Online Food Locator:
www.slofoodbank.org/foodlocator



40 Prado Homeless Services Center
Hot Meal 12–1pm, Dinner 5–6pm, or
request no cook food bag
Bus Stop: 2A-Prado at Elks

Shower

40 Prado Homeless Services Center
Mon – Fri, 8am – 4pm, 40 Prado
Bus Stop: 2A-Prado at Elks

Shower The People

SLO Library, 995 Palm St
Sundays from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalists SLO, 2201 Lawton Ave
Tuesday & Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The United Church of Christ, 1245 LOVR
Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Pet Resources

Woods Humane Society, (805) 543-9316
woodshumanesociety.org
Low cost spay/neuter, pet pantry

C.A.R.E.4Paws, (805) 968-2273
Care4paws.org
Pet food & supplies, spay/neuter, vaccines,
microchips, & other vet care

Cell Phone/Internet

Cellphone (Obamaphone):
40 Prado Homeless Services Center (outside)
40 Prado Rd, Days/Times Vary

Internet access:
SLO Library, 995 Palm St, *Closed Mon & Sun*
• Tues & Wed: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
• Thurs & Sat: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Fri: 1 – 5 p.m.



Medical

Community Health Centers (CHC) at 40 Prado
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 8am–5pm
Wed: 9am–6pm
(805) 473-4712

SLO Noor Clinic
(805) 439-1797
Mon–Thurs: 8am – 5pm
Free medical care for
uninsured adults

Access Support Network
HIV/AIDS, Hep C, and drug
use disorders support services
Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm
(805) 781-3660

- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call 988
- 24hr Health & Human Services: Call 211
- Emergency Assistance: Call 911
- Non-Emergency Dispatch: Call (805) 781-7312
- Confidential mental health resources & information:
Central Coast Hotline, (800) 783-0607
- Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Assistance:
Lumina Alliance, 51 Zaca Lane, #150, (805) 545-8888
- Sobering Center, 820-280-0415
Call for Bed Availability
- CalFRESH (food stamps), General Assistance Benefits:
County Department of Social Services,
3433 S. Higuera Street, (805) 781-1600

How to get a California I.D. card

Individuals experiencing homelessness can now secure a free copy of their California birth certificate and/or free California photo identification form. Visit 40 Prado Homeless Services Center during their access center hours to receive assistance and/or necessary forms.

Once obtained, the person will go through the regular process with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to obtain a photo ID and will need to meet all the usual requirements for documentation. Use the flow chart below to understand the process.



Get A Fee Waiver from 40 Prado Homeless Services Center anytime Mon – Fri from 8 am – 4 pm.



FRIENDSHIP OUTREACH

Happy New Year 2026!



Priscilla Alquist

My focus for our Sunshine this month is birthdays! It's a great time to reach out to members, chat about what's new and wish them a happy birthday! I especially love milestone birthdays, as they are such a feat. This month I'd like to feature Marjorie Ott, whose birthday was January 8. She turned a vibrant 80 and is looking great! We had a chance at Lunch Bunch to celebrate her birthday as well as Jean Burns Slater from January 4. Other January birthdays are Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman. Check your directory and newsletter each month and reach out to wish someone congratulations on their special day! You'll both be glad you did!



The Villages
of San Luis Obispo

Happy Holidays

LUNCH BUNCH at ADELINA'S BISTRO

February 5, Thursday 11:30 a.m.

Adelina's Bistro includes delicious local ingredients that keep the menu fresh, light and always appetizing. The menu is ever-changing, based on the season and requests of guests. Come and learn for yourself why Adelina's Bistro has been well received by press and public alike.

Adelina's Bistro 1645 Trilogy Parkway, Nipomo. Located in main building of the Trilogy Monarch Club

RSVP no later than Sunday, February 1, 2026 to
aauw5cpblunchbunch@gmail.com Free parking.



Gina's Bunch at Lunch in January



At the December Board meeting it was decided to fund camperships for 6 middle school girls to attend the 2026 Tech Trek camp to be held at UCSB. Math and Science Middle School teachers in Lucia Mar Unified School District have been asked to submit names of girls who would benefit most from this week-long STEM program. Submissions are due in February with interviews in March. Contact Pam with your offers to help with the program. You are needed!

LET'S TALK TRAVEL

This interest group is reorganizing for the new year and welcomes anyone interested in joining. Suggested locations are: *Green House Coffee* on Grand and *The Tribe Coffee House* also on Grand. Both locations are open until 3 pm. Suggested dates include the 2nd or 3rd Monday of the month. Suggested times include 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. Cast your vote for location, day of the week and time and let's go!! Send your responses to Jean Burns Slater jbslater2006@gmail.com. If you like to share or hear about adventures with useful travel tips, this is your group.

COMMUNICATIONS

Brand New Year. Let's make a resolution to attend as many activities of the branch as possible. This means we get to communicate and support each as we go about our lives. Friendship is so important to our health. Please share with others and support our branch as we work on our goals through the rest of this year! Let me know if there's anyone who needs our help. Susan Brazil 209-747-6663.

With the anticipated move of Linda Lidberg to Colorado, the Branch needs a technology savvy person to be a webmaster of our web page, send out email blasts, update and publish the Directory and generally help members out with their technology. We continue to appreciate Linda Lidberg for her consistent work at keeping us up to date with all of the details of our communications tasks. Linda always goes above and beyond and is truly dedicated to our branch. She will be deeply missed for her contributions and commitments to our branch and on a personal level. Linda was our Adopt A Poll Coordinator and Bingo Caller also. What are we going to do without her? If you have any suggestions for people who may be willing to fill some of these roles please contact Susan Brazil. 209-747-6663.

DAYTIME PAGE TURNERS



Interested in reading, sharing lunch and dessert during lively discussions on selected books? If you are contact, Jean Burns Slater, jbslater2006@gmail.com, to join Daytime Page Turners. We will be reading *A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes in March and *James* by Everett Percival in April. Join us. We meet at 11:30 a.m. on the first Friday of each month at private homes.

Treasurer's Report AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch January 24, 2026

Table 1

| Operating Income | 25-26 Budget | YTD | YTD vs Budget |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 35 Memberships @ \$16 | \$560.00 | \$560.00 | \$560.00 |
| Advertisements @ 9 + \$100 donated | \$550.00 | \$550.00 | \$550.00 |
| Unencumbered Funds | \$320.00 | \$320.00 | \$320.00 |
| Operating Income Total | \$1430.00 | \$1430.00 | \$1430.00 |

Table 3

| Account Balance 1/23/2026 | \$51,810.41 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reserves (Tech Trek, Op. Exp.) | -\$33,623.10 |
| Unencumbered funds | \$0.10 |
| Monthly expenses | \$0.00 |
| Remaining operating funds | \$18187.41 |

Table 2

| Operating Expenses | 25-26 Budget | YTD | Remaining funds |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Meeting Rent (Church/Women's Club) | \$393.00 | \$300.00 | \$93.00 |
| Member Directory | \$140.00 | \$126.12 | \$13.88 |
| Program Expense (Zoom) | \$167.58 | \$41.70 | \$125.88 |
| Hospitality | \$200.00 | \$93.96 | \$106.04 |
| Insurance | \$201.00 | \$183.00 | \$18.00 |
| P.O. Box Rental | \$192.00 | \$182.00 | \$10.00 |
| Business Expenses | \$250.00 | \$184.65 | \$65.35 |
| Raffle/Bingo Permit (CTNRP-1) | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | \$0.00 |
| Annual State Renewal Fee | \$25.00 | \$25.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$1598.58 | \$1166.43 | \$432.15 |

Table 4

| Fundraising Income 2025-2026 (there are outstanding expenses) | Gross | Expense (some pending) | Net |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Silent Auction Squares | \$4381.46 | -\$120.12 | \$4261.34 |
| Silent Auction Cash & Checks | \$1603.23 | -\$130.00 | \$1473.23 |
| Bingo sheets | \$150.00 | | \$150.00 |
| Bingo Tickets | \$3200.00 | -\$300.00 | \$2900.00 |
| Sales Tax ? | | | |
| Total | \$9334.69 | -\$550.12 | \$8784.57 |

Table 6

| 26-27 Fundraising Distribution | pending |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Scholarship (15%) | |
| Tech Trek (36%) | |
| Eager Reader (24%) | |
| AVID Classroom Support (5%) | |
| AAUW Funds (15%) | |
| General Reserve (5%) | |
| Fundraising Totals | 0 |

Table 5

| Reserve 2025-2026 | Carryover for 25-26 | Distribution YTD | Balance |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Scholarship (15%) | \$1,436.15 | | \$1,436.15 |
| Tech Trek (36%) | \$6,065.16 | | \$6,065.16 |
| Eager Reader (24%) | \$6,893.27 | | \$6,893.27 |
| AVID Classroom Support (5%) | \$1,478.72 | | \$1,478.72 |
| AAUW Funds (15%) | \$2,503.20 | \$2050.00 | \$453.20 |
| General Reserve (5%) | \$15,246.60 | | \$15,246.60 |
| Total Reserves on Hand | \$33,623.10 | | \$31573.10 |

AAUW SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT: DEFENDING THE FRONTLINE OF DEMOCRACY

AAUW Public Policy Committee's School Board Project will hold a half-day Symposium on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9:00 am-12:30 pm PDT. Participants will hear a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws; a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and misinformation; and participate in workshops on effectively recruiting school board members and forming collaborations for greater impact. This event is open to the public. [Click HERE to Register](#)

The session will be recorded and posted to the AAUW California website after the event.
<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-school-board-project-defending-the-frontline-of-democracy>



HELP MONITOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD!

Lucia Mar USD Board of Trustees Calendar

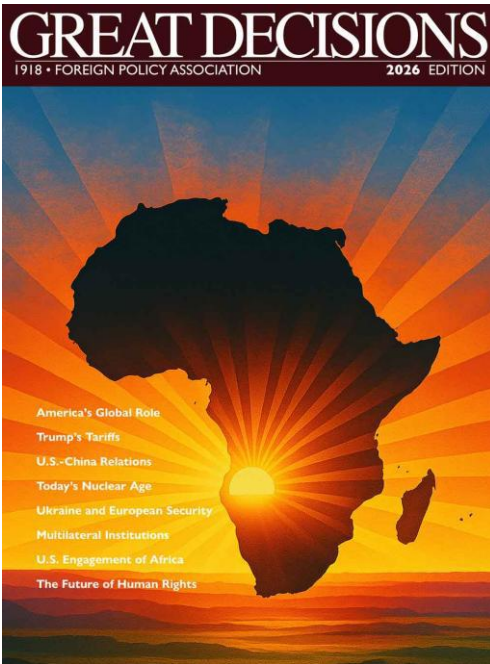
7:00 p.m. 602 Orchard Street, Arroyo Grande

Next Meeting Dates: [February 10](#) [March 3](#) [March 17](#)

American Association of University Women is committed to our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. Thus, we have a responsibility to stay informed and assist whenever possible in fulfilling our mission. School Board elections are at the heart of our mission, focusing on candidates that are looking out for educational opportunities for all students through the public education offerings. Refer to the December Waves newsletter for details on school board elections' districts and details for applying to run for a school board position. Balanced school board candidates, *without* a set of ideological views that encompass specific political, cultural, or religious beliefs, will best serve our community and students

In 2026 there are 4 seats up for election, offering a possibility of changing the entire school board focus. The trustees are elected based on their area of representation. We need solid candidates. Four Trustee positions up for election in 2026 in the following areas:

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Area 3 | Currently held by Andrea Naemi-Vergne |
| Area 5 | Currently held by Colleen Martin |
| Area 6 | Currently held by Eilene Pham |
| Area 7 | Currently held by Donna Kandel |



2026 GREAT DECISIONS TOPICS: PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

World discussions in the Great Decisions Program recognizes the importance of community conversations about global events and topics. Our AAUW Branch is actively involved in these global discussions. The topics for 2026 are listed below. If interested in joining future discussions contact Jean Burns Slater, jbslater2006@gmail.com

1. **America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy**

Trump's return has marked a break from 80 years of U.S. foreign policy leadership, embracing an "America First" approach. This chapter explores the risks of isolation and diminished influence in relation to Trump 2.0 foreign policy.

2. **Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy**

Trump's aggressive trade and tariff policies have shaken global

economic norms. What's the rationale behind this radical shift in economic policy, and what are the implications for multilateral trade and geopolitics?

3. **U.S.-China Relations**

Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on Rare Earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options?

4. **Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation**

U.S. alliance skepticism may drive countries like Japan and South Korea to reconsider nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's rethinking of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this new uncertainty alter the way allies and rivals in various regions make decisions about security and nuclear weapons?

5. **Ukraine and the Future of European Security**

With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas, and how might Europe respond?

6. **Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order**

Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? This chapter examines the future of global cooperation across trade, health, and finance.

7. **U.S. Engagement of Africa**

Africa's geopolitical role is growing. What lessons can the U.S. learn from China's presence there, and how might it strengthen ties, especially with leading nations like Nigeria? What tools of statecraft might the U.S. bring to its engagement with Africa?

8. **The Future of Human Rights and International Law**

As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?



AAUW CALIFORNIA IS IN FULL ACTION DRIVE

Lobby Days 2026 – Advocate for Bills to Advance AAUW Values

This year we're introducing a new approach to Lobby Days that prioritizes in-district meetings. As we transition to this model, we will also keep a zoom meeting option for members who are unable to travel to in-district meetings. This shift was inspired, in part, by our recent trials and tribulations with Lobby Days meetings in Sacramento. Over the past two years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure meetings with legislative offices in the capitol as they are routinely overbooked with meetings tending to be confirmed at the last minute, short (most last no more than 15 minutes), and held with staffers rather than legislators (84 of 94 in 2025).

This shift to in-district meetings for Lobby Days was also inspired, in part, by the experiences of the Redlands Branch, who took a different approach and saw remarkable results. By scheduling Lobby Days in-district, they were able to secure eight in-person meetings. These meetings were confirmed well in advance, were longer, and offered a much better chance of speaking directly with legislators. We highlighted their success in our November Public Policy survey, and members overwhelmingly indicated a preference for meeting with district offices.

Sign-up to be involved in this year's Lobby Days

Let us know whether you prefer to participate **in person in the district office** or **virtually via Zoom**. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as **Team Leaders** – a critical role responsible for scheduling district office meetings, coordinating team members, and ensuring everyone understands their tasks and logistics.

[Click HERE to sign up](#)

UNLAWFUL TRANSFER of THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNDS

The letter below was sent to our two California US Senators and we signed on!! Please activate your motivation and engage in activities that further our AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025 – 2026



Charmen Goehring
President

—
Renee MacArthur
Chief Financial Officer

—
Tracey Clark
Secretary

—
Deanna Arthur
AAUW Fund

—
Rebecca R. Gomez
Branch Development Co-chair
Membership

—
Sigrid Moranz
Co-President Elect
Branch Development Co-chair
Leadership

—
Sharyn Siebert
Co-President Elect
Financial Development
Task Force

—
Michelle Baer
Communications

—
Donna C. Holmes
Strategic Plan Consultant

—
Amy Hom
Public Policy Co-chair

—
Melissa Maceyko
Public Policy Co-chair

Mary Isaac
Tech Trek

Marty McKnew
Governance/
Parliamentarian

—
Gail Swain
Nominations and Elections

—
Julika Barrett
Office Manager

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the American Association of University Women California branches, a group with 8,500 active members spread throughout California, we are writing to urge you to provide immediate congressional oversight and to block the Administration's unlawful transfer of Department of Education (ED) roles, responsibilities, and funds to other federal agencies through interagency agreements.

Whatever one's views on the size of government, this is a basic separation-of-powers issue. Congress created ED and assigned specific duties to it in statute. The executive branch cannot effectively dismantle or reassign those responsibilities on its own. If changes to ED are warranted, they must be debated openly and enacted by Congress — not implemented through behind-the-scenes administrative transfers that bypass the law and blur accountability.

These transfers also create real, practical problems for states, districts, and families:

- **Confusion and delay:** Splitting education programs across multiple agencies forces states and schools to navigate different systems, contacts, reporting rules, and timelines to access the same federal dollars and guidance.

- **Weaker protections for students:** ED's work is not just grant administration — it includes enforcing federal education laws and civil rights protections, including for students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations. Fragmenting that expertise increases the risk of inconsistent guidance and uneven enforcement.

- **Less transparency, more bureaucracy:** Moving responsibilities out of ED does not "cut red tape." It multiplies it — and makes it harder for Congress and the public to know who is accountable when programs fail or students' rights are violated.

We respectfully ask you to:

1. **Conduct vigorous oversight** — including hearings, briefings, and document requests — to determine the legal basis, scope, and impacts of these transfers.
2. **Direct GAO and agency Inspectors General** to review whether the transfers comply with authorizing statutes and appropriations law, and to assess risks to program integrity and student protections.
3. **Use appropriations and authorizing tools to stop the transfers** — including clear language prohibiting the use of funds to carry out or expand these agreements and requiring ED functions and funds to remain within ED unless Congress expressly authorizes otherwise.

States deserve clarity, not chaos. Families deserve stability, not disruption. And students — especially those relying on federally protected rights — deserve consistent, expert enforcement of the laws Congress enacted.

Thank you for your leadership and for safeguarding Congress’s constitutional role. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

AAUW Alameda
AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel
AAUW Atascadero
AAUW Auburn
AAUW Beach Cities
AAUW Benicia-Vallejo
AAUW Berkeley
AAUW Big Bear Valley
AAUW California Online Branch
AAUW Camarillo
AAUW
Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista
AAUW Chico
AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut
Creek
AAUW Del Mar-Leucadia
AAUW Diamond Bar-Walnut
AAUW Fallbrook
AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach
AAUW Fremont
AAUW Gilroy
AAUW Glendale
AAUW Half Moon Bay
AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley

AAUW La Mesa-El Cajon
AAUW La Palma-Cerritos
AAUW Laguna Beach
AAUW Lodi
AAUW Long Beach
AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga
AAUW Madera
AAUW Marin
AAUW Marysville-Yuba City
AAUW Merced
AAUW Mid-Peninsula
AAUW Mission
Viejo-Saddleback Valley
AAUW Monterey Peninsula
AAUW Morgan Hill
AAUW Morro Bay
AAUW Napa County
AAUW Nevada County
AAUW Oakland-Piedmont
AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette
AAUW Pacifica
AAUW Palm Springs (Coachella
Valley)
AAUW Palos Verdes Peninsula

AAUW Paradise
AAUW Petaluma
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez
AAUW Poway-Penasquitos
AAUW Redlands
AAUW Sacramento
AAUW San Fernando Valley
AAUW San Francisco
AAUW San Jose
AAUW San Luis Obispo
AAUW San Ramon
AAUW Santa Cruz County
AAUW Santa Maria
AAUW Silicon Valley
AAUW South Lake Tahoe
AAUW Stockton
AAUW Sunnyvale-Cupertino
AAUW Thousand Oaks
AAUW Torrance
AAUW Turlock
AAUW Visalia-Sequoia
AAUW West Contra Costa
AAUW Westminster-Fountain
Valley-Huntington Beach

**OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE FIVE CITIES – PISMO BEACH BRANCH OF AAUW!**

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Plan for What's Important

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amanda@operationisurf.org
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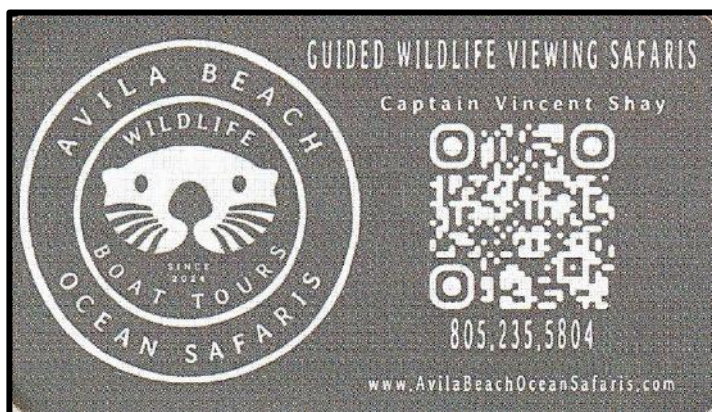
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Acknowledging the dedication of the AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch as it works to change our world.

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