

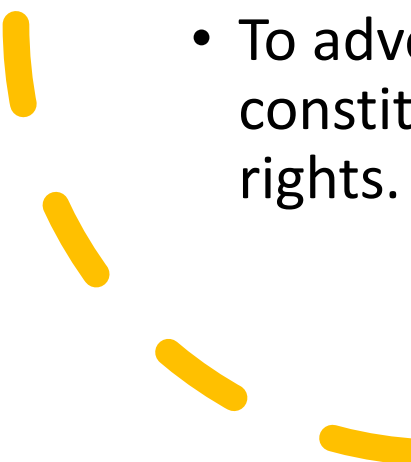


# AAUW Public Policy Update

Marge Willms  
Public Policy Chair  
November 2023



# Public Policy Priorities for 2023-24

- AAUW Wisconsin and AAUW National have established Public Policy Priorities for the upcoming year.
    - To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
    - To address equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.
    - To advocates for vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expansion of voting rights.
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[www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/](https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/)

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TAKE ACTION

# Two-Minute Activist

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

SIGN UP

# TWO Minute Activist

AAUW provides ALL the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more. [Two-Minute Activist – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

What are your passions? Take Action at these Two Minute Activist links:

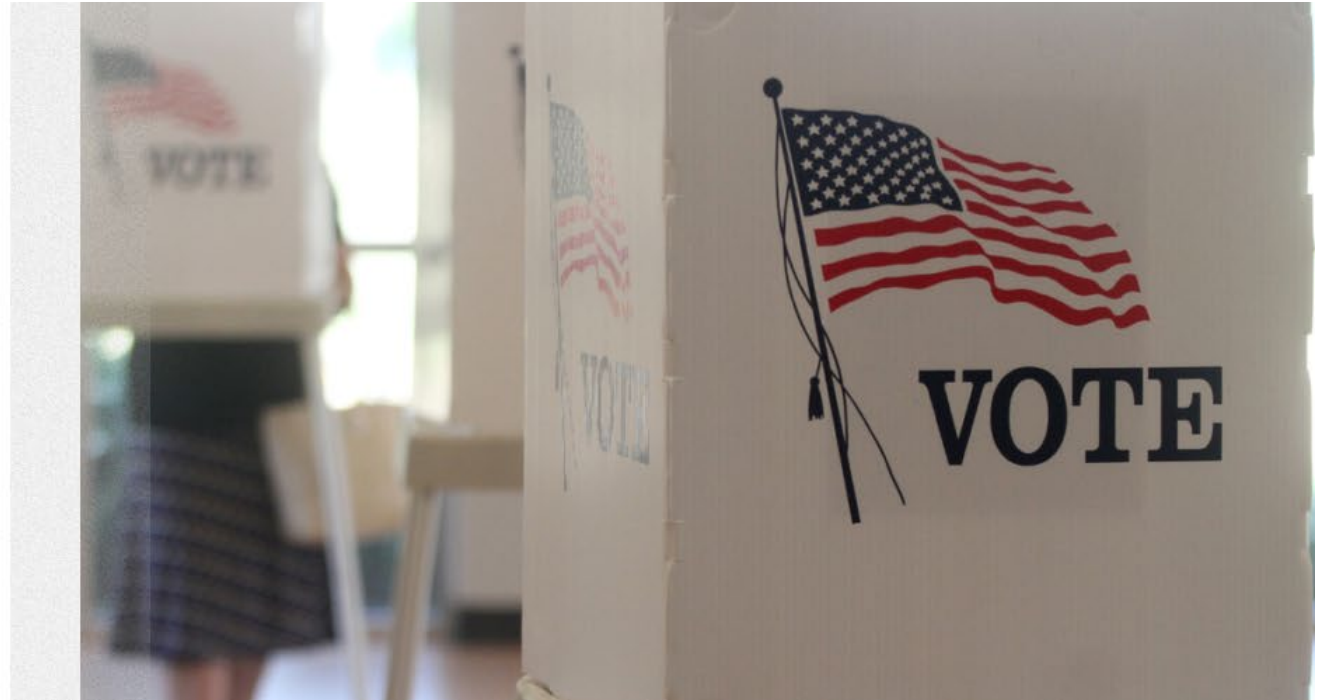
- [Affirm the Equal Rights Amendment – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- [Support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- [Fight the Attacks on Reproductive Rights – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- [Support the Gender Equity in Education Act – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)
- [Pass the FAMILY Act – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

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## John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14)

With so much at stake each time we head to the ballot box, it's crucial that everyone is able to make their voice heard. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14) responds to the wave of voter suppression tactics enacted over the past decade with critical protections to ensure the freedom to vote for all.

> [Take Action Now](#)



# Support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

## Stand Up for Voting Rights!

Over the past decade, states and localities across the country have enacted policies that make it harder to vote. In the [first half of this year alone](#), 45 states have introduced more than 300 anti-voter bills — and at least 11 states have enacted 13 of them.

The landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 stopped states from enacting racially discriminatory voting restrictions. However, laws fostering voter suppression have been on the rise. The 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court decision gutted key protections in the law, making way for many of these new discriminatory and restrictive voting laws. These voting restrictions disproportionately impact people of color, women, voters with disabilities, and young and older voters, making it more difficult for them to access the ballot box.

**It's time for Congress to restore and update this landmark law to ensure voters can fully participate in elections.**

## Tell your representative that it's time to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and protect the freedom to vote today!

*In order to address your message to the appropriate recipient, we need to identify where you are.*

Take future action with a single click.  
[Log in](#) or [Sign up](#) for **FastAction**



1

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2.

2

Messages

3.

3

Confirmation

Prefix

Mrs.

First Name

Margaret

Last Name

Willms

Street Address

321 Thomas Ct

Postal Code

53183

City

Wales


State/Province


WI

Email

margaretw927@yahoo.com

Mobile Phone (Optional)

 (262) 968-3349

Remember me so that I can use **FastAction** next time. 

NEXT

*By filling out this form, you will receive Action Network emails from AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund. You may unsubscribe at any time.*

## Message Recipients

SEND MESSAGE

### Send the following message:



**Scott Fitzgerald**

US Representative (R)

Pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Dear [elected official],

Personalize your message

As your constituent, I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to urge you to support and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14), legislation that will advance a modern, flexible and nationwide approach to protecting voters' access to the ballot box.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 provides essential protections for voters of color. But the 2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder gutted key protections in the law, making way for new discriminatory and restrictive voting laws.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act responds to the Shelby decision and the wave of voter suppression tactics enacted since that decision by requiring states with a recent history of voter discrimination to seek federal preclearance for election changes. This legislation also requires preclearance for certain practices known to be discriminatory like inadequate multilingual voting materials and cuts to polling place locations. Finally, it increases transparency by requiring reasonable public notice for voting changes and allows the Attorney General to request federal observers to be present where there is a serious threat to fair elections.

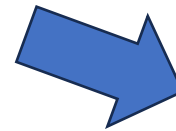
The right to vote is essential to building the truly representative 21st century democracy our nation deserves. I urge you to support and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and restore our ability to prevent discrimination in voting.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Margaret Willms

321 Thomas Ct Wales, WI 53183-9777

margaretw927@yahoo.com



Start Over

SEND MESSAGE



- The Wisconsin Legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment that would prohibit private funding, (private grants that help run elections) arguing that it creates an unfair advantage and undermines the integrity of the elections.
- Another proposed constitutional amendment would clarify that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in Wisconsin, which is already the case under state law. (This amendment has been criticized as redundant and unnecessary, and as a way to stoke fear and distrust among voters.)
- A third proposed constitutional amendment would enshrine the state's voter ID law in the constitution which is defended as a measure to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the elections. Critics say the law is a form of voter suppression that disproportionately affects low-income, minority, elderly, and disabled voters.

[See JS article: Assembly passes voting constitutional amendments that now go to voters \(jsonline.com\)](https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2019/05/22/wisconsin-assembly-passes-voting-constitutional-amendments/1260000001/)

## Voting Rights Matter in Wisconsin Too