

Gold Filings



AAUW
Amador (CA) Branch

Mid-September 2025

AAUW Mission: Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy

Vision: Equality for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality

What's in This Issue?

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Message from the Leadership Co-Chairs



We are happy to work together and are excited about the plans generated with the Leadership Committee.

The 2025 / 2026 Leadership Committee held its first meeting via zoom earlier this month. In our meeting we addressed several topics such as:

- The September Celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 10:00 AM to noon at the Methodist

Church in Sutter Creek. Please RSVP by September 15th to aauwamador@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you there.

- The 2025 Home Tour Survey. As you may have read in a recent email, 40% of our members provided responses. Based on those responses our next Home Tour could possibly be scheduled for 2027. While we understand the concerns regarding the Home Tour, a few of the Leadership Committee members are disappointed that we need to wait until 2027 for the next Home Tour. With that, we need your support in deciding what type of Fundraising event that we will have for 2026.

The Programs Team has scheduled events through the end of this year. However, we are still hoping that one of our members will agree to host our Holiday Party.

As we get closer to the special elections scheduled for November 4th, AAUW California provided this link with the [Newsletter Article](#) "Investing in Our Democratic Future" with non-partisan information about Proposition 50, including a second document with [messaging guidelines](#). Please read the article as it provides important insights regarding the Proposition.

Rachel Stahl, Stephanie Young
Leadership Co-Chairs

Programs

Libations & Conversations



September 18, 2025
5:30 to 6:30 PM
Water Street Garden
10787 Water St
Amador City
(adjacent to The Imperial Hotel)

The Power of the Horse and Human Connection
This month's speaker is Barbara Thompson who lives in Amador City and is the owner of Sky Ridge Ranch and Heart Rhythm Yoga. She is currently President of the Rotary Club of Passport to Amador and will speak about the power of using the teachings of Equine Assisted Learning to develop growth and leadership in humans.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation.
No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THIS MONTH'S
Libations & Conversations



LISTEN
LEARN
ASK



Barbara Sayre Thompson has a lifetime of experience with horses and uses her understanding of them to create unique learning opportunities for individuals, groups and businesses. She was certified by the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association in 2006 and has devoted herself to creating environments where humans and horses can feel safe, seen and heard. Leveraging horse-human interactions fosters clear communication, confidence, problem-solving skills and healthy boundary setting. Overcoming challenges with a large, powerful animal consistently contributes to a deep sense of empowerment which translates into real-life problem-solving skills and emotional intelligence.

A'Laina Lyons will host this event at Water Street Garden, formerly the Bellflower Garden, in downtown Amador City, adjacent to The Imperial Hotel. This is a great chance to introduce neighbors and friends to AAUW.

September Celebration Program

The poster features a green background with a white wavy line at the top. The AAUW logo is in the top left, with 'Amador (CA) Branch' below it. A large sunflower is on the right, and another is on the left. The text 'September Celebration' is in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the date and time are in white, bold, sans-serif font. The location is also in white, bold, sans-serif font. The RSVP information and a list of activities are in black, sans-serif font. The phrase 'EVERYONE IS WELCOME!' is in bold, black, sans-serif font. The final sentence and website are in black, sans-serif font.

AAUW
Amador (CA) Branch

September Celebration

Saturday, September 20, 2025
10 am – Noon
Creekside United Methodist Church
14 Main Street, Sutter Creek

Please RSVP by Monday, Sept. 15
to aauwamadore@gmail.com

- Meet the Tech Trek students
- Hear plans for the upcoming year
- Learn about the recent branch survey
- Sign up for special interest groups
- Refreshments

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Those interested in joining AAUW and learning more about the organization are welcome to attend.

For more information: aauwamadore@gmail.com

**Please Join Us for the September Celebration program.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

Bring your calendar so you are ready to sign up for special interest groups
and to support our programs and events.
Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10 am – Noon
Creskide United Methodist Church, 14 Main Street, Sutter Creek.

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 17
to aauwamador@gmail.com**

**We'd love to see everyone in person!
And bring a friend.**

Holiday Party

We are looking for someone to host our 2025 Holiday Party.
It is usually held on a Sunday afternoon in early December.
If you are willing to host this year's party, contact [Sue Harrington](#).

September Calendar

Wednesday, September 17, 5:30-7:00pm

AAUW WA Online Branch Program on Title IX

To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.

Thursday, September 18, 5:30-6:30pm

Libations & Conversations

Our speaker is Barbara Thompson who lives in Amador City and is the owner of Sky Ridge Ranch and Heart Rhythm Yoga. She will speak about the power of using the teachings of Equine Assisted Learning to develop growth and leadership in humans.

Water Street Garden in Amador City, adjacent to the Imperial Hotel.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend this no fee presentation. No need to RSVP, just come and join the discussion.

Saturday, September 20, 10:00am - noon

Program: September Celebration

Creskide United Methodist Church

See details in the article above.

Monday, September 22, noon-1:30pm

Great Decisions Daytime Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *AI and National Security*.

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you want to join the group.

Monday, September 22, 2:00-4:00pm

Page Turners & Book Lovers

We are meeting at Kate Kramer's house to discuss *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut.

Contact [Sue Harrington](#) if you would like to join the group.

Wednesday, September 24, 5:30pm

Working Girls Book Club

We will be meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 5:30 at Element Restaurant in Sutter Creek. We are reading *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

Contact [Jacque Fletcher](#) if you would like to join the group or have questions.

Thursday, September 25, 6:00-7:30pm

Great Decisions Evening Discussion Group

We will meet at Stephanie Young's house to discuss *AI and National Security*.

Contact [Stephanie Young](#) if you want to join the group.

Save the Date: A Preview of Our October Program!

How to Be a Scammer Jammer

Sunday, October 26, 2:00 - 4:00pm

Have you ever been scammed or know someone who has? Join AAUW for a free event to learn about current scams and how you can protect yourself. Representatives from the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and the Amador District Attorney's office will provide helpful information so you can learn how to be a Scammer Jammer! For more information: aauwamador@gmail.com. Amador Senior Center,

**Amador Senior Center
229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson, CA**

Membership

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth.

Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate (1879-1955)

From the Editor--

Contribute to Gold Filings - Send ideas, articles, and pictures by the 10th or the 23rd of the month to appear in the next issue. Please email [Stephanie Young](#) with the ideas or events you want to share.

Submissions are preferred in the following format:

- Articles in a .doc or .docx file, or in the body of an email
- Pictures in .jpg format
- Permissions set to enable editing

Comments about Gold Filings? – We are always interested in making improvements to the newsletter to better meet our members' needs. Please let Stephanie know your comments and suggestions at the email above.

From the Sunshine Chair--

Know someone who needs a note? – Aieleen Parker sends cards on behalf of our branch. If you know of a branch member in need of a get well, condolence or congratulations card, contact Aieleen via phone (email). And if you have extra AAUW cards, bring them to the September Celebration so she can use them.

DEI-- Diversity, Equity Inclusion

LatinX authors for Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15- 10/15.

Anita de Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez

Moving back and forth through time (1985 and 1998) and told from the perspectives of both women, *Anita de Monte Laughs Last* is a propulsive, witty examination of power, love, and art, daring to ask who gets to be remembered and who is left behind in the rarefied world of the elite.

My Side of the River by Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez

Born to Mexican immigrants south of the Rillito River in Tucson, Arizona, Elizabeth had the world at her fingertips as she entered her freshman year of high school.

As her parents' visas expired, they were forced to return to Mexico, leaving Elizabeth responsible for her younger brother, as well as her education. *My Side of the River* explores separation, generational trauma, and the toll of the American dream.

The Great Divide by Cristina Henríquez

An epic novel of the construction of the Panama Canal, casting light on the unsung people who lived, loved, and labored there as it follows the stories of three people. *The Great Divide* explores the intersecting lives of activists, fishmongers, laborers, journalists, neighbors, doctors, and soothsayers—those rarely acknowledged by history even as they carved out its course.

How We Named the Stars by Andrés N. Ordorica

Set between the United States and México, Andrés N. Ordorica's debut novel is a tender and lyrical exploration of belonging, grief, and first love—a love story for those so often written off the page. Equal parts tender and triumphant, *How We Named the Stars* is a debut novel of love, heartache, redemption, and learning to honor the dead; a story of finding the strength to figure out who you are—and who you could be—if only the world would let you.

Familia by Lauren E. Rico

What if your most basic beliefs about your life were suddenly revealed to be a lie? In this compelling, emotional novel, two young women are brought together by a genealogy test and a haunting question that shakes their understanding of what family is and who they truly are... With nothing—or perhaps so much—in common, Gabby and Isabella set out to find the truth, though it means risking everything they've known for an uncertain future—and a past that harbors yet more surprises...

Catalina by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

When Catalina is admitted to Harvard, it feels like the fulfillment of destiny: a miracle child escapes death in Latin America, moves to Queens to be raised by her undocumented grandparents, and becomes one of the chosen. But nothing is simple for Catalina, least of all her complicated, contradictory, ruthlessly probing mind. Now a senior, she faces graduation to a world with no place for the undocumented. Can she save her family? Can she save herself? What does it mean to be saved?

From AAUW National

From Charmen Goering, CA AAUW Prez

Connection is important, so starting this month, we have a new all-member publication called the *California Compass*. This publication builds upon the *California Connection* and introduces several new features as we head into another year of Activism, Building, and Connection.

Also, for all members, but especially leaders, I will be hosting a year-long book study with *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Shawn A. Ginwright. The first Pivot, "From Lens to Mirror" will be discussed on October 22nd at 7 pm. Reading the chapter ahead of time will provide you with more context, but all are welcome to participate in the discussion regardless. You can register [HERE](#).

A National Virtual Fall Member Gathering

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 5 - 6 pm on Zoom

At this special event, we will:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches,
- Update you on our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities,
- Share the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey, and
- Provide you with the information you need to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

Register [HERE](#)

*NOTE: This event overlaps with our Libations & Conversations event,
but the recording will be available later at aauw.org*

AAUW Virtual Economic Empowerment Trainings

AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET

From AAUW California

AAUW WA Online Branch Program on Title IX

September 17, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm PST

Our panel presentation will explore the historical evolution, current landscape, and future implications of Title IX, with a focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics, and beyond. This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural, and political dimensions of Title IX—from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025.

Panelists will share insights on enforcement trends, lived experiences, and strategies for upholding gender equity in the face of evolving interpretations and challenges.

To register click [HERE](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it and then 48 hours before the presentation you will receive the Zoom link. Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.

Join us for this informative and timely VIRTUAL Program!

Our Local Partners--Fundraisers Abound

Rockin' Out At Kennedy Mine

Amador College Connect invites you to rock out for higher education on September 27 at Kennedy Mine in Jackson. You won't want to miss this amazing event full of local musicians and delicious food in a take home, insulated lunch bag!

Dinner and Pricing Details:

-  Tri-tip sandwiches with slaw, chips, fruit cup, water
-  \$40 for dinner and concert ticket
-  \$25 for concert ticket
-  Kids 10 and under free
-  Beer and wine available for purchase at the event

Order Your Dinner Tickets by September 13!

You can also buy tickets by sending a check in the mail and a brief note for how many tickets/dinners you are purchasing. Questions? Call us! 209-217-8239

Mailing Address: 1 Prosperity Ct, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

Amador & Argonaut's Performing Arts

Main Street Theatre Works Amphitheatre
1127 North Main/ Jackson Gate Rd.

Amador & Argonaut's Performing Arts'

21st Annual

Broadway Burger Bash

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 5 p.m.

Main Street Theatre Works' Amphitheatre

1127 North Main/Jackson Gate Road

\$15 Admission

\$20 At Gate

Amador High Performing Arts

jguidi@acUSD.org

gturner@acUSD.org

209 257 7329

And For Your Consideration...



Interfaith Food Bank AMADOR COUNTY

PROJECT THANKS 2025

Dear Friends,

Plasse's wonderful auction is over and it's time to start talking Turkey! November will be here before we know it and that means PROJECT THANKS! The Interfaith Food Bank is (already) coordinating our annual holiday basket project. Last year we processed **720** applications and roughly **150** families that did not preregister. We don't know what to expect this year. We know this year will be higher, we just don't know how much higher.

Last year we served a total of 2,495 households, 6,327 individuals 2-3 times a month. We are currently serving about 16% of the population. That is up 3% over 2023. Certainly nothing to brag about.

Project Thanks brings our community together to help provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal to Amador County families who may not have one. The project has been extremely successful by including participation from organizations and individuals that collect, divide, package and distribute complete Thanksgiving Dinners to assigned families. We will provide recipient information and coordination. If you would rather, we are equipped to assemble and distribute the boxes for you. If you choose to sponsor a family or families, **please consider a monetary donation of \$80.00 per family.**

We appreciate everyone who has participated in the past and are asking that you consider participating again this year. This year, we need all Thanksgiving Baskets distributed no later than **Sunday, November 23. Signed applications** and any extra baskets **must** be returned to the Interfaith Food Bank no later than **November 25 by 3:00 pm.** It is imperative we stick to the schedule to ensure those that did not receive baskets will have time to pick them up.

Please support **Project Thanks** by returning the attached participation form before **October 10th.** Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Enclosed is a copy of the suggested menu for each basket to keep the donations as consistent as possible. Feel free to add your own flair! Thank you from all of us on behalf of the many people that will receive boxes. There would be no us without you.

Sincerely,

Beth Stanton
CEO - Executive Director, Interfaith Food Bank

Please return this information by October 10th to:

12181 Airport Rd., Jackson, CA 95642

Or

kdunne@feedamador.org or liz@feedamador.org

Public Policy

The Fight for Public Education is the Fight for Democracy

Our commitment to preserving democracy is unwavering, and we are grateful to have you as a partner in this fight. Because it may feel like you need to fight on all fronts, which can be overwhelming, each month we provide a list of targeted action items focused on a topic area that we care about. This month our action items, and the articles in *Public Policy News*, are dedicated to the fight for public education as central in the fight to preserve our pluralistic democracy.

Protect Higher Ed: Stop the Politicization of PSLF

A new proposal from the U.S. Department of Education would misuse Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) to let officials decide—based on politics, not mission—which nonprofits and colleges “deserve” to participate. This threatens higher education institutions, faculty, staff who rely on PSLF, and could silence campuses that speak out on equity and justice. For example, a college or organization that affirms support for LGBTQ+ students or racial and gender equity could be accused of “illegal discrimination,” stripped of PSLF eligibility, and leave its faculty and staff without the student loan forgiveness they’ve earned. Help AAUW push back. [Submit your comment](#) by **September 17, 2025** urging the Department to withdraw this harmful proposal. [Check out our comment guide](#) for ways to personalize your letter.

September is also filled with online events held via Zoom:

- Saint Mary’s College of California New Education for Women’s Leadership Institute one-day conference [“Women’s Leadership in the Current Political Moment”](#) on Sept 4th, 9:50 am-5:30 pm.
- AAUW LACIC’s [September program](#) about Generative AI and its impact on education, health and mental health on Sept 14th at 2-4 pm.
- AAUW Washington Online Branch’s [Program on Title IX](#) on **Sept 17th, 5:30-7 pm.**
- The League of Women Voters’ program entitled, [“The Challenges to Voting Rights Then and Now”](#) on **Sept 18th, 1-2:30 pm.**
- The Public School Defenders Hub Monitors & Observers Training on [“The Brown Act”](#) on **Sept 25th, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

On August 14th, a federal judge delivered a major legal victory for public education and civil rights. In *American Federation of Teachers et al. v. U.S. Department of Education et al.*, the court struck down the Trump–Vance administration’s attempt to force schools nationwide to censor lessons, eliminate diversity and inclusion programs, and sign unlawful compliance certifications under threat of losing federal funding and facing criminal penalties.

Finding Your Voice

The Two-Minute Activist (National Initiative)

You joined AAUW because you believe it is important to help advance gender equity and create a more economically secure world for women and girls. Advocating for these beliefs can be performed in many ways; you don’t have to march or protest, but that is your right. Alternatively, you can be a **Two-Minute Activist** by joining AAUW members in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment and more. Sign up to get alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to legislators, writing letters to the editor of a newspaper, and other timely calls to action. We need this now more than ever.

AAUW’s Public Policy issues are at [Two-Minute-Activist](#).

With your help, AAUW can let Congress know that members want to see improved and expanded legislation that protects access to education, economic security and civil rights.

Postcard Protest and Acts of Gratitude (Local Initiative)

After the 2016 election, a local group was formed by Dixie Camardo and Melene Smith to write to elected officials - Federal, State and Local about issues of concern. This group has continued and now meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. Issues are emailed to all who are interested and postcards are provided.

The next session will be on Thursday, September 18 at 2:00pm.

at Yorba Wine Tasting, 51 Hanford St., in Sutter Creek

Here is a chance to make your voice heard!

If you are interested in being included on the mailing list,
email Nancy Nieland at nieland4@gmail.com.

And if you're looking for MORE action, **check out AAUW-CA Action Alerts**
via our [Resistbot](#) and [BlueSky](#) accounts.
(State Initiative)

Women's History Is Important - Now More Than Ever.

The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) was founded on the belief that women's stories must be told, celebrated, and preserved – not just in March, but every day of the year. For over four decades, NWHHA has led the national movement to ensure women's history is woven into the fabric of our country's narrative. Today, that mission is more urgent than ever.

At a time when women's studies programs are being dismantled and educational spaces are retreating from teaching inclusive history, we take a firm and unwavering stand: **We will not allow women's history to be silenced.** The erasure of women's contributions – especially those of Black, Indigenous, Latina, Asian American, LGBTQ+, and disabled women – harms not only our understanding of the past but our ability to shape a just and equitable future.

History is not complete unless it includes **all** voices. Women's stories are American stories. And they must be told – in classrooms, on bookshelves, in films, through art, and across all generations.

NWHHA remains committed to amplifying the voices of women who have shaped, led, resisted, and reimagined our world. We will continue to equip educators, families, communities, and institutions with the tools they need to teach women's history boldly and truthfully.

Our 2025 theme, *"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations,"* reflects not only the legacy of women's impact but our collective responsibility to keep their stories alive – especially when they are under threat.

Now is the time to take action. Join us in preserving women's history and defending its rightful place in our cultural and educational landscape. Become a member, book a speaker, support our magazine, or bring women's history to your school or organization.

Because remembering is an act of resistance. And our history is our strength.

Tech Trek

A Case for TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group)

By staying connected with alums, you're not just supporting their future—you're continuing the conversation that began at camp. Your continued involvement can inspire them long after camp ends, guiding them as they explore new opportunities and persist through challenges.

To help you protect that investment, AAUW California Tech Trek is proud to introduce the **Tech Trek Alum Program (TTAP) Microfunding initiative!** It offers branches and alum groups up to \$500 in seed funding to launch or expand projects that keep Tech Trek alums connected and engaged. It ensures Tech Trek's impact and investment doesn't end at camp by empowering alum futures as they continue to stay involved, inspired, and supported. To learn more about the TTAP Microfunding initiative, check out the [Microfunding Guide](#). The application link is within the document. Please read BEFORE applying!



Additionally, AAUW National is offering **Community Action Grants up to \$10,000** to branches and state organizations that are designing or implementing hands-on STEM programming specifically for girls in grades K–12 focused on at least one of the following core areas:

- Skill-building in science, technology, engineering, or math
- Confidence-building and STEM identity development
- College and career preparation with a STEM focus
- Connecting girls with women mentors and role models in STEM fields

They are especially interested in collaborations with community organizations at the local or state level, such as schools or others with the same mission of lifting girls and women. Intra-branch and state Tech Trek activities are likely opportunities that we will be discussing further at the Tech Trek committee level. More information is available [HERE](#), and the application can be found [HERE](#).

The Tech Trek Peer Group will be on the 3rd Thursday each month. send an email to techtrek@aauw-ca.org if you would like to attend but are not a member of the Tech Trek Group.

Arts and Education

Comic Books Were Once Considered a National Threat

From *History Facts*

In the mid-20th century, comic books came under fire in the United States. Though the medium started out as reprinted collections of popular newspaper strips in the 1930s, it quickly grew into a diverse and wildly popular original art form. By the 1940s, original comics filled newsstands across the country; in 1948, 80 million to 100 million comic books were being sold in the U.S. each month. This was far from a niche hobby; comic books were mass entertainment for a range of ages (though primarily children), covering everything from superhero adventures and Westerns to genres such as horror, romance, sci-fi, and war stories.

Across the country, some church groups and parent organizations began expressing concerns that comics glorified violence and led to delinquency. Public comic book burnings began in the late 1940s as a protest. The concern reached fever pitch in 1954 with the publication of psychiatrist Fredric Wertham's *Seduction of the Innocent*, which argued that comic books were a major cause of

juvenile crime. Though widely publicized at the time, Wertham's reporting was later found to be deeply flawed, often misrepresenting research to support his claims.

The outcry that followed led to Senate hearings and, eventually, the creation of the Comics Code Authority (CCA), a self-governed body that publishers used as a censorship guide to stay in the good books of distributors and newsstands. Under the code, scenes of violence, horror, and anything deemed morally questionable were heavily edited or banned altogether. The backlash reshaped the comic book industry for decades: Superheroes such as Batman, originally dark and gritty, were toned down to seem more wholesome, and entire publishers went out of business. The CCA had a decent hold on the industry until the 1970s, when specialty comic book stores started popping up. Direct relationships were established with publishers, bypassing most distributors, and eventually, the code was dropped, allowing the comic book industry to resume its expansive storytelling.

State Courts Hold the Power to Free Us or Erase Us

By Mercedes Fulbright and Sandra Castro Solís, Ms. Magazine

While national headlines fixate on the U.S. Supreme Court, state courts shape nearly every part of our lives. An estimated 95 percent of all legal cases in the United States are handled in state courts. State courts decide whether you can access abortion care, whether your protest leads to jail time, whether you keep custody of your child and whether your gender identity is protected or punished. Despite their vast power, state courts remain one of the most overlooked battlegrounds—and opportunities—in the fight for justice. As organizers, we've seen the cost of that neglect. **Now we're calling on progressive movements to treat state courts not as a footnote, but as a headline.**

This fight won't be easy. Conservatives dedicated decades to capturing the courts and building an infrastructure of power that operates behind the scenes. Since the 1980s, the Federalist Society has cultivated a pipeline of judges to dominate the federal judiciary, including all three of Trump's Supreme Court picks. By the mid-2000s, this strategy pivoted to state courts.

They may hide behind super PACs and "judicial impartiality," but there is a distinct playbook: Flood the courts with extremists, then shield them with claims of neutrality. Hijack the language of democracy and weaponize it to attack "activist judges." Use dog whistles like "law and order" to justify criminalizing dissent. Let's be clear. When Elon Musk tweets that a woman running for judge is an "activist," he's trying to discredit her before she can rule against corporate power. When Trump loyalists gut judicial ethics rules, they aren't just bending the law. They are rewriting the rules of power.

Their agenda is to dismantle constitutional protections, disempower communities of color, and consolidate white moneyed interests. And it's working. Today, nearly 60 percent of state supreme court justices were appointed by Republican governors, according to Alliance for Justice. Most of these courts now lean conservative, marking a dramatic shift from decades ago. These are the same courts that determine whether trans people are protected under the law, whether corporations can pollute without consequence, and whether communities can hold police accountable. If your fight for justice ends in front of a state court judge, the odds are already stacked against you.

Contact Us / Social Media

aauwamador@gmail.com

amador-ca.aauw.net

P.O. Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685-0611

Facebook.com/AAUW-Amador

instagram.com/aauwamador

YouTube.com/@aauwamador

**In the event you are not receiving important AAUW National emails,
click the link below:**

[AAUW National resubscribe link](#)



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