

**AAUWYoungstown Update**

In the AAUW Washington Update: the first half of 2022 was incredibly tumultuous and gave us reasons to celebrate and protest. Last month, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of Title IX and marked Pride month, even as discrimination continues to endanger LGBTQ+ individuals. And we celebrated the historic swearing in of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Also, the Biiden Administration [proposed](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567361/354788570/-928229644?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559) new Title IX regulations to neutralize the implementation of harmful Title IX regulations in 2020. The proposed regulations would restore protections for student survivors of sexual harassment, clarify protections for LGBTQ+ students, strengthen supports for pregnant and parenting students, and much more. The Department of Education, however, announced a separate rulemaking for Title IX regulations on athletics, which were not included in the latest proposed changes.

With the decision of the Supreme Court to overturn Roe V Wade, there have been numerous consequences. This decision has reversed nearly half a century of legal precedent and has shown its disregard for women’s health, privacy and reproductive rights.AAUW is encouraging us to voice our opinion and suggests the following suggestions:

**ACT, LEARN AND ENGAGE**

* Learn more about the status of abortion rights in your state with the [Guttmacher Institute’s 2022 policy analysis](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567368/354788577/2020008985?utm_source=Guttmacher+Email+Alerts&utm_campaign=7a7b987308-midyear+trends+release&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9ac83dc920-7a7b987308-260602065&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559).
* Take the opportunity to [meet with your representatives](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567369/354788578/-1789167898?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559) on your home turf and hold in-district meetings to share your thoughts when Congress heads into recess in August.
* Stay up to date on our coalition’s activities at [BansOffOurBodies.org](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567370/354788579/-42112971?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559).
* Reduce the stigma about abortion and reproductive rights by talking openly about these issues and how they’ve affected your own life and livelihood, along with those of the people you love.
* On June 22, student borrowers [filed a joint motion](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567377/354788586/1998659263?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559) for preliminary approval of a settlement in the Sweet v. Cardona lawsuit, which will result in canceling over $6 billion debt for 200,000 borrowers.
* Plan ahead for Equal Pay action days! The next dates on the [Equal Pay Day calendar](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567378/354788587/105727558?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559) are Moms’ Equal Pay Day on September 8 and Black Women’s Equal Pay Day on September 21.
* Stay engaged with us this summer and ensure you are signed up as a [Two-Minute Activist](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47567379/354788588/302338415?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjViNzUyYjRmLWUxZmUtZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiam9yaW5lc3RvbkBzYmNnbG9iYWwubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=68ZkV4_EqKl_yyPqs5C4dXKwmVvEIElIlPt49iUx4vg=&emci=794e58d6-dcfe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=5b752b4f-e1fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=925559) today.
* Continue to watch news and resources and access Community Hub for answers and ideas on issues involving women and families.

AAUW National will be in hiatus for the summer, so you will have to follow 2 minute activist to get up to the date information from AAUW. :

The first words of the Constitution: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

I thought a review on civics might be appropriate since I was not sure on some of the issues we have faced in the previous months. So, in review, our forefathers set up a government that was to have 3 **equal** branches of power

* Legislative—Makes laws (Congress, comprised of the House of Representatives and Senate)
* Executive—Carries out laws (president, vice president, Cabinet, most federal agencies)
* Judicial—Evaluates laws (Supreme Court and other courts)

So far this year, this balance of power is not working. The legislative branch seems to be bogged down because of the inability of the Republican and Democratic parties to work together. We are supposed to be nonpartisan, but I feel that most of the Representatives and Senators of the Republican party seem to be trying to prevent the Biden administration from having positive actions and laws to help the country. For example:

192 (or 81%) voted against the bill to ease the baby formula shortage

20 House Republicans voted against a package that included provisions aimed at addressing mental health and substance abuse

171 House Republicans and 30 Republican Senators voted against funds for urgently needed infrastructure which will make transformative investments to help working families with the cost of living, create American jobs, and fund local infrastructure projects. Now several of those GOP Members are now celebrating critical funding for local projects in their districts

47 Republican Senators voted nay in the confirmation of Ketanjii Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court

14 House Republicans and 15 Republican Senators joined with Democrats to [pass a bipartisan bill](https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/24/politics/house-vote-bipartisan-safer-communities-act/index.html) to address gun violence, the first major federal gun safety legislation in decades, The rest voted nay.

People are asking if the filibuster (the Senate cloture rule, which requires 60 members to end debate on most topics and move to a vote) should be eliminated. Voices on both sides have called for reform in the face of partisan gridlock, to be more productive and pass laws. Since 2020,, the filibuster seems to have been used to block any effective legislation being passed in the Senate. .

The Supreme Court has become extremely unbalanced. Members of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Senate. Most feel that McConnell has been instrumental in making this happen by using hypocrisy to manipulate appointments, lying about long term tradition and also invoking the nuclear option to only require 51 Senators rather than 60 to end debate and vote on confirmation. To ensure an independent Judiciary and to **protect judges from partisan pressures,** the Constitution provides that judges serve during “good Behaviour,” which has generally meant life terms. To further assure their independence, the Constitution provides that judges’ salaries may not be diminished while they are in office.The complex role of the Supreme Court derives from its authority to invalidate legislation or executive actions which, in the Court’s considered judgment, conflict with the Constitution. This power of "judicial review" has given the Court **a crucial responsibility in assuring individual rights,** as well as in maintaining a "living Constitution" whose broad provisions are continually applied to complicated new situations.

The Supreme Court has been accused of overreach and blurring the line between religion and state. So far this year, his year, the Supreme Court has

* ruled that a Mississippi law that bans most abortions after 15 weeks is constitutional and overturned the constitutional right to abortion established by Roe v. Wade in 1973.
* ruled that a football coach at a public high school had a constitutional right to pray at the 50-yard line after his team’s games over parents' objections.
* curtailed the E.P.A.’s ability to regulate the energy sector, limiting it to measures like emission controls at individual power plants. The implications of the ruling could extend well beyond environmental policy.
* ruled that states with strict limits on carrying guns in public violate the Second Amendment.
* ruled that a Maine program that excludes religious schools from a state tuition program is a violation of the free exercise of religion.
* ruled that the City of Boston had violated the First Amendment when it refused to let a private group raise a Christian flag in front of its City Hall.
* gave its blessing to capital punishment that causes extraordinary pain.

(One positive note: the court did rule that Trump could not block the release of White House records to a House committee investigating the Jan.6th attack on the Capital with Thomas being the only dissenting vote. There have been some questions on whether Thomas should continue to be on the Supreme Court because of his obvious bias and his wife's involvement in the January 6th attack on the Capital).

Most of the rulings have caused people to wonder if the Supreme Court has become so unbalanced that it should be expanded to counteract the effects of partisanship on the Court by explicitly recognizing and institutionalizing partisanship presence. Expansion would serve to offset the tarnished confirmations of the Supreme Court nominees from President Trump.

The executive branch has had positive and negative responses from the public, but the response to the Pandemic, enabling the passing of the infrastructure bill, supporting Ukraine, and increasing jobs have generally been considered favorable, but inflation and supplies of essentials have caused Biden’s ratings to fall. Several bills proposed by Biden have been held up or voted down on parisien lines.

Right now, AAUW feels that our rights- voting rights, abortion rights, and the right to quality public education, are all on the ballot in November.Roe bering overturned, voting rights being rolled back, stripping. EPA’s climate regulations, haing Miranda rights weakened.and causing blurred lines between church and state, have further divided people in the country.The Supreme Court has been talking about possibly restricting LGBTQ+ rights, contraception access or interracial marriage. As the Supreme Court nears the end of its term, it is poised to hand down a string of decisions that carry a deeply disturbing theme: the reversal of long-standing precedents and law that will claw back the rights of Americans in a way unseen in modern times. Much attention has appropriately been given to the stunning draft decision [reported](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/02/read-justice-alito-initial-abortion-opinion-overturn-roe-v-wade-pdf-00029504) on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade.* Other cases will cause Americans to see significant retrenchments of their rights, including those to [clean air](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cert/20-1530), [religious freedom](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cert/20-1088), [effective governance](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cert/20-1114), and to live safe from the scourge of [gun violence](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cert/20-843). *Dobbs* will not be an isolated case of overreach nor of attacks on cherished liberties. Instead, it offers a stark preview of the plans the court’s radical majority has for the future.They seem to be advancing their own extreme ideological vision that is out of step with most Americans

The other issue that really bothers me is the fact that most Republicans want to downplay the January 6th attempted coup. In Ohio, we are blessed with 5 Representatives who voted against ratifying the results of the election in 2020

* Jim Jordan, Fourth District (includes Union County)
* **Bill Johnson, Sixth District** (my district)
* Bob Gibbs, Seventh District
* Warren Davidson, Eighth District
* Steve Chabot, First District

Unfortunately because of our unconstitutional gerrymandered maps, these people will probably not be defeated in the 2022 election. Ohio Republican Sen. Rob Portman did condemn the objections and the attempt to overturn the election, saying that Congress doesn't hold the power, voters do. Unfortunately, Portman is one of several Republican Senators not running for reelection. The Republican candidate to replace Portman is J.D.Vance who has compared abortion to slavery and believes that survivors of rape and incest should be forced to give birth, even calling rape “inconvenient.”

Then we have J.R. Majewski, the GOP candidate in Ohio’s 9th Congressional District who has been associated with the false QAnon ideology and attended the Jan. 6, 2021, “Stop the Steal” rally. Afterpeople were killed at the mass shooting at the Highland Park, Illinois 4th of July parade, Majewski made it clear that he believes mass shootings are an acceptable price to pay for his right to own assault weapons.

It is hard to be nonpartisan when faced with some of the issues, and I am sorry if you think I am being too biased when presenting the facts, but I cannot vote for anyone who downplays January 6th and continues to claim the election was stolen and refused to allow a peaceful transfer of power.

Here is where AAUW wants action:

Contact your Legislative Representatives to encourage addressing key issues when the budget is developed, including making **child care** more accessible and affordable, expanding the Child Tax Credit, providing universal pre-kindergarten to every 3- and 4-year-old and guaranteeing paid family and medical leave.

Also the House of Representatives voted 217-210 to pass the **Paycheck Fairness Act,** however it failed in the Senate, 49-50. Contact our Senators to listen to voters, who overwhelmingly support pay equity, and work to pass this important bill.

The **Women's Health Protection Act** [failed](https://www.npr.org/2022/05/11/1097980529/senate-to-vote-on-a-bill-that-codifies-abortion-protections-but-it-will-likely-f) to pass in the U.S. Senate. We need to contact Senators to support this bill for reproductive rights.Ohio has banned abortions at approximately six weeks gestation. People must comply with a forced 24-hour delay and mandatory sonogram. The bill makes **no exceptions** for rape or incest so a Physician who specializes in treating child abuse victims was forced to send a 10-year-old patient who was six weeks and three days pregnant to Indiana for an abortion. Ohio is already talking about banning all abortions in the state.

The U.S. House of Representatives [passed](https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2021260) the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4)**. It now goes to the Senate so contact your Senators to vote yes. The Senate needs to take action to support this vital update to our nation's laws protecting the freedom to vote! Voting restrictions passed in 49 states 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.

They are looking for volunteers for the **Intergenerational Tech and Talk Program** that will bridge the gap between seniors and youth. The youth are to teach seniors about technology while the seniors will teach youth social and communication skills. To find out more, go to

[htps://apis.mail.yahoo.com/ws/v3/mailboxes/@.id==VjN-UMLc6\_7hikYu5fcOom2Ds1CujoTFI\_RM12Krco9bD6cJVKrFP\_R8TC0VoMI3Fp-wKU3W9RB9hsviOcxCKcdQJg/messages/@.id==ADXTe1dKAT7rYsw5SgfzKDjt9J0/content/parts/@.id==1.2/thumbnail?appid=YMailNorrin&downloadWhenThumbnailFails=true&pid=1.2](https://apis.mail.yahoo.com/ws/v3/mailboxes/@.id==VjN-UMLc6_7hikYu5fcOom2Ds1CujoTFI_RM12Krco9bD6cJVKrFP_R8TC0VoMI3Fp-wKU3W9RB9hsviOcxCKcdQJg/messages/@.id==ADXTe1dKAT7rYsw5SgfzKDjt9J0/content/parts/@.id==1.2/thumbnail?appid=YMailNorrin&downloadWhenThumbnailFails=true&pid=1.2)

In towns, cities, states and on a national level, AAUW is helping to change policies and enact laws to ensure equity for all.Our fundamental rights and the future of our country are at stake. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The most important rule for democracy to succeed–**VOTE**

The Board will be meeting soon to establish dates and programs for next year. Please contact me or Denise if you have any suggestions.

Keep in touch, Jorine



Jorine