

Public Policy Fall 2019
Trish Garner, State Public Policy Chair

Hello One and All -

After a tumultuous legislative Session, things have begun to settle down. I've been meeting with a number of coalition partners and advocates in order to determine what issues we will be working on in the next Sessions. I will also say that we need to be prepared for walkouts being business as usual, but one never knows.

I understand that the Oregon Department of Education is already putting at least one full time Title IX Coordinator position into action. Thank you so much to all of you who attended pre-Session Student Success forums and sent in emails urging your legislators to approve this funding. You made a difference and, in the bargain, underscored AAUW of OR's ability to advocate in Salem.

One of our major priorities for the 2020 [short] Session is passing an age discrimination bill. As you may recall, if an employer can come up with one reason other than age for an adverse employment decision – even if that reason is directly related to age – then courts have said that an aggrieved employee can't seek redress for the decision based on age discrimination. We want to say that age discrimination is just that – age discrimination, and it should be illegal. We will be working with AARP of Oregon to move this bill forward. You just may be hearing from me about contacting legislators to support the bill. Stay tuned!

AAUW of OR is also supporting campaign finance reform. The details have yet to be worked out, but we are looking to support a bipartisan, fair process. Representative Dan Rayfield, along with election policy experts and campaign finance reform legislative leaders, is going to present a statewide tour in September. Forums will feature a history of Oregon campaign finance reform, discussion of the 2019 legislature's accomplishments, and a community discussion about the future of campaign finance reform. All of the events run from 7:00 to 8.30 p.m. Here are the locations:

- Medford:** September 4, Medford Library – 205 S Central Ave, Medford, OR 97501
- Eugene:** September 5, University of Oregon, Global Scholars Hall - Rm 123 – 1710 E 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 97403
- Hillsboro:** September 9. Shute Park Library – 775 SE 10th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97123
- Oregon City:** September 10, Exact location TBD
- Portland:** September 11, Midland Library – 805 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
- Salem:** September 17, Oregon State Capitol Rm 350 - 900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301
- Bend:** September 23, East Bend Library - 62080 Dean Swift Rd, Bend, OR 97701.

A number of you have communicated with me about your intent to attend these events. Thank you! Thank you! It is only with your support that AAUW of OR can have an effective public policy agenda. If you haven't done so already, please let me know that you and your fellow Branch members will be attending.

Thanks again for all your support. We make a great team!!