



January/February 2021 Newsletter

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITY ISSUES

Strong system of Public Education
Equality, Individual Rights and Social Justice for a Diverse Society.
Economic Self-sufficiency for Woman

MISSION

To advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

VISION

Equity for all.

VALUES

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW FUNDS

The Educational Foundation is one of the largest sources of funding for graduate women in the world awarding millions each year in



For those of you who haven't yet received your Covid shot, here's the latest news...

How to get a COVID-19 vaccine in Seattle, King County and Washington State as of January 28th, 2021

Last week, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced a public-private partnership [intended to speed up coronavirus vaccine distribution with a goal of administering 45,000 vaccines a day](#).

At the same time, Inslee acknowledges the state is implementing its new strategy before it has enough vaccine to keep up with that pace. The state is in vaccination Tier 1 of Phase 1B, which allows people 65 and older — and those 50 and older in [multigenerational households](#) — to receive the vaccine. That's in addition to people in Phase 1A, including health care workers, high-risk first responders and long-term care residents.

Previously, Tier 1 of Phase 1B was to include [people 70 and older](#), but it was expanded after the federal government called on states for the change. About 80% of Washington State's COVID-19 deaths are among those 65 and older, Inslee noted.

The changing federal guidance, combined with a predictable deluge of interest, has made it difficult for the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to inform the public about the vaccine. In recent weeks, DOH has experienced issues with its PhaseFinder application that allows users to find out if they're eligible to be vaccinated, as well as its main website.

The result so far has been mass confusion and seemingly endless Hospital leaders say they've [received an overwhelming flood of phone calls and hospital visits from people seeking vaccine appointments](#).

"We have stopped scheduling additional appointments right now," said Brian Ivie, CEO of the Skagit Regional Health system, during a Monday news conference hosted by the Washington State Hospital Association.

Inslee said the state is shifting its strategy to create the infrastructure for mass vaccination without waiting for the volume of doses to match.

"We want people to recognize this is going to take time," the governor said.

So, yes, you'll need to pack your patience to get an appointment, and sometimes even just to get information from the state, a vaccination site or your doctor.

If you're ready to deal with some possibly frustrating scenarios, keep reading...

Step 1: Are you eligible?

The first task is to find out if you're eligible for a vaccine.

If you have an Internet connection, you can use the state's PhaseFinder tool at findyourphaseswa.org to find out. If you're not currently eligible, you can enter your information to be alerted when it's your turn to be vaccinated.

PhaseFinder has experienced failures recently due to the influx of interest, so it may not be accessible at all times.

If you don't have an Internet connection, or if PhaseFinder is down, you can call DOH at 1-800-525-0127, press #. That number has seen long response times and a logjam of people trying to get information, so you may not be able to get through.

If you can't get through calling the main number above, DOH suggests calling its alternate phone number as it tries to add more call capacity: 888-856-5816.

If you cannot find whether you're eligible to be vaccinated, contact your primary care provider, who can advise your next steps.

Step 2: Find a vaccination site

Once you've determined you're eligible to be vaccinated, you can find a vaccination site on [DOH's website](#). You can see the map here, too, via DOH:

It's worth noting, however, that DOH said the site is a "work in progress" and may not be kept 100% up to date on which sites have vaccines available. But it's a place to start.

If you know you're eligible to receive the vaccine and aren't having success finding a vaccination site through DOH's website, or if you don't have internet access, try calling DOH at 1-800-525-0127, press #, or at its alternate phone number of 888-856-5816. Another reminder: DOH has seen long response times and a logjam of people trying to get information, so you may not be able to get through.

You also can and should check your local health district's website. In King County, that's [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#).

If you still cannot find a vaccination site with open appointments, but you know you're eligible to be vaccinated, contact your primary care provider for guidance.

Step 3: Make an appointment or get in line

Once you find an open vaccination site near you, you'll need to make an appointment, if available.

Some sites are first come, first served, so be sure to know whether you need an appointment at your preferred vaccination site. If it's a first-come-first-served site, get there early and be prepared to wait.

If your vaccination site takes appointments, make one and hope that it doesn't get canceled. Some vaccination sites [have canceled appointments](#) because they said they don't have the supply of vaccines to fill all the appointments.

Step 4: Get vaccinated and continue to wear a mask

After you get your first shot, you'll need to wait either three or four weeks before getting a second shot, depending which vaccine you received.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires a booster three weeks after the first shot, and Moderna has a four-week gap between the two shots.

This means that the 95% protection generated by the two vaccines won't fully kick in until five or six weeks after the first shot.

Some vaccines, like for the flu, can prevent people from getting sick but not necessarily from being infected and able to transmit the virus to others. It isn't yet known if that is the case with coronavirus vaccines, said Dr. Tom Frieden, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [to Kaiser Health News](#). "We don't yet know if the vaccine protects against infection, or only against illness," Frieden said. "In other words, a vaccinated person might still be able to spread the virus, even if they don't feel sick."

It is prudent for the vaccinated to still wear masks because clinical trials didn't answer the question about a vaccinated person still being able to spread the disease, Michele Roberts, a DOH acting assistant secretary, [said last month](#).

We are sorry to inform you that May Mettler died on 18 December 2020. The family will publish an obituary fairly soon.... Kerry Lohr

May (to the right) at Angelo's Christmas lunch



I am so very, very sorry to hear of this. She was such a devoted member and long time treasurer. Of course her MN and UW nursing background was something we also shared. My deepest sympathy.... Kathy Linnell

I knew May at UW where she got her graduate nursing degree. She got her BSN at U of Minnesota. She also taught at the UW (peds) when I was there teaching, Then we were both members of Lake Burien Pres Church for some years. I also had student nurses in the Highline School District in school health and knew her there. She was the school nurse for Highline High School. Of course she was in book group for years too.... Emily Hitchens

I'm so sad to hear about May. She was such a special person, so sweet and supportive. We will honor her for her many years of dedicated service to the branch...Anneliese Ellerton

We don't have details of May's family, but as far as we know her husband, Alan Mettler, still resides at 2516 SW 151st Pl, Burien WA 98166

Hello Members:

Well, we are still experiencing COVID-19 times of social distancing and wearing masks to ensure our and other's safety. Hopefully most of you have now been vaccinated or have an appointment soon. In the meantime, we will continue meeting online. Our Zoom book discussion groups have been most successful. If you are interested in joining on of our groups please let us now. Seattle Branch has also been active with Zoom meetings. Some of our Highline members have joined the SW Seattle Coffee Group, in informal and fun group. (See the activities on the upcoming events page)



For contributing your news! Please continue to share any news or information that might be of interest to all our Members



*Kay Crane 1/31,
Anneliese Ellerton 2/13,
Kathie Walker 2/15,
Bonnie Verhunce 2/21*



AAUW – WA Virtual Lobby Day Schedule – February 1, 2021

We hope you were able to sign up and join the virtual Lobby Day event. If you didn't, we will publish results in the next newsletter.

Karen Anderson, our Public Policy director, and Nancy Sapiro, our new lobbyist have scheduled a virtual Lobby Day. They are developing plans for the meeting and a list of bills for us to support. All members are encouraged to participate.

Questions? advocacy@aauw-wa.org

THE MEETING PLAN: Sessions on two of our bills, talks by our new lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro, and by AAUW State leaders, a workshop on keeping a record of legislators' votes so your branch can create candidate comparison information to be used later, and a short talk by Emerge Washington, a group that trains women to run for public office. One of our bill speakers will be Dr. Laura Sienas of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, who will provide information on HB 2561, the Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care Act.

[Read details in our Legislative Update Reports – [on this website under Advocacy – click here...](#)]

The legislature wants us to justify bills on one of three grounds: COVID; economic recovery; or equity, which they define as racial equity but we have broadened to include gender equity. We are appending a statement supporting progressive revenue measures because budget is a big issue this year and most of our bills cannot pass without new funding. We will be making separate recommendations regarding revenue bills as soon as they are developed and introduced in the legislature.

AAUW-WA Virtual Lobby Day Schedule:

8:30-8:45am — Admissions and participant introductions

8:45-9:00am — Welcome, AAUW-WA President Mary Williams and AAUW-WA Public Policy Chair, Karen Anderson.

9:00-9:45am — Dr. Laura Sienas, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will speak on HB 2561, Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care Act.

9:45-10:30am — Margaret Babayan, Washington State Budget and Policy Center, will speak on new revenue bills and tax credits legislation

10:30-10:45am — Break

10:45-11:15am — AAUW lobbyist Nancy Sapiro and AAUW-WA public policy director Karen Anderson will discuss Virtual Lobbying and Bills Update

11:15-11:45am — Karen Besserman, Emerge Washington

11:45-12:15pm — Sandra Distelhorst, how to develop information for candidate comparisons based on lawmakers' positions on our issues

12:15-12:30pm — Mary Williams, concluding remarks

Online Meeting Logistics:

This web-event will be hosted on Zoom. For best results, use Zoom's free downloadable apps for smartphone or computer, paired with a reliable Internet connection. A telephone-only (dial-in) option also will be available.

AAUW-WA recommends that all registrants set up and test Zoom in advance, and join the webinar at least 10 minutes before the official start time. We are sorry that we are unable to provide tech support.



AAUW WA 2021-22 Session Bills

HB 1297 expands eligibility for the Working Families Tax Credit and would provide \$500 payment for each child in the home up to three children. The tax credit would be available to low and moderate income families who qualify for the EITC, including undocumented families who file with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

SB ???? (forthcoming) requires state review for hospital and other health facility mergers. This is to protect existing services in a community, including reproductive health services.

SB 5140 Pregnancy and Miscarriage Care Act requires that medical professionals in all medical facilities follow best care protocols for women facing crises caused by miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies.

SB 5068. Expands Medicaid funding from two months postpartum to 12 months. This will safeguard the health of women and their children, yielding long-term benefits to them and saving the state money in the long run.

SB 5237/HB 1213 Fair Starts for Kids Act increases funding for early childhood education and will improve children's educational outcomes, enable women to seek paid employment, maintain continuous employment, and improve families' incomes.

HB 1073 and/or SB 5097. Expands paid family and medical leave by reducing the hours for eligibility, broadening the definition of family member, and adding job protection for those who take leave.

SB 5177 Removing Proof of Marriage in Sexual Assault Cases

SB 5183 Strangulation Training for Nurses directs the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy to develop practices for local communities to use to improve access to trained forensic nurse examiners in cases of nonfatal strangulation assault

HB 1009 Extends the Reproductive Parity Act to student health plans. Under the RPA, health insurance plans in Washington providing coverage for maternity care must provide equivalent coverage for abortion services.

AAUW-WA endorses progressive revenue measures, including SB 5096 and HB 1406, to pay for the bills that require funding.

For more details on changes in 2021 bills check the link below for pdf version:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=3519c59337&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1690269109262450681&th=17750acca8677ff9&view=att&disp=inline>

For Legislative report pdf

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=3519c59337&attid=0.4&permmsgid=msg-f:1690269109262450681&th=17750acca8677ff9&view=att&disp=inline>



Summary of Zoom Board Meetings

January 8, 2021

All Board members attended to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Emily reported on her call with Barbara Sando. They discussed the dissolution of the Highline Branch. Barbara inquired about the status. Emily explained that Board members would be calling and surveying members in January. They also discussed options for current members to join another branch. Neighborhood groups were discussed and how effective they are in maintaining contact. Emily explained to her that she will be sharing comments from our members but unless some wish to take on leadership position in our branch, it will be dissolved. There appears to be a long process to close a branch.
2. Emily has put together a survey for contacting members and getting their input. Emily will send each Board member a copy of the survey. Members will be called and asked for their input.
3. Timeline for calling and completing the survey was discussed. All calls should be made prior to our next meeting on January 25 at 10 am. Each Board member will need to compile the survey results and send it to the other Board members. We will meet on January 25 to clarify and help Anneliese to create information for the combined January-February newsletter. A conclusion will be drawn from the input.

January 25, 2021

1. Results of Survey
Each Board Member called members on their assigned page in the directory. Several members could not be reached but the majority responded. Current Board members Mary Kay Ault and Wendy Wenger would be willing to help the incoming Board members if any could be recruited. After discussion, it was agreed that Mary Kay would contact the three members who indicated that might serve in a leadership position. They will be invited to attend our next Zoom Board Meeting. Anneliese will compile the survey and publish the results it in the next newsletter.
2. Other Items
Treasurer's Report – Anneliese reported that we have \$5,687 in our account. In 2020, about \$2,000 was spent on High School Scholars leaving about \$2,000 for 2021. The program is being done remotely and Eva needs some help with it. It was suggested by a member through the survey, to hold a large celebration at the end of the pandemic for our branch.

Some other issues that surfaced through the survey process were: if we waited a year and completed the survey we might come up with different results; some disadvantages were noted if we merged with Seattle branch. It's hard to make any decisions during pandemic.

Highline Branch Leadership Team

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What does the future of Highline Branch look like?*Editorial by Emily from October 2020 newsletter*

After COVID-19 struck, we just have continued with the same Board of Directors. Mary Kay and Emily as co-presidents, Wendy as VP for Membership, Kathie as Secretary, Anneliese as Treasurer and newsletter editor. A couple of times we have had brief statements in the newsletter stating that the current officers have fulfilled their terms and then some! So, what might be the options? 1) Volunteers step up for leadership! At the minimum we need an administrator and a treasurer. 2) We could join Seattle Branch. There used to be a West Seattle Book group that joined with Highline. 3) We could dissolve our branch and members could select another branch, such as the on-line branch, Federal Way or Seattle. 4) All of us could be Members at Large with the national organization and not join any local branch. The Board feels that we need to make a decision by the end of June 2021

As a result of this, the Board decided to make calls to the Highline branch members, asking for their input on how they felt about the future of their branch.

Here are the results of the survey:

Results of AAUW Highline Branch Survey			
<u>Member by privacy number</u>	<u>Interested In leadership</u>	<u>Keep Highline or join other groups such as Seattle, SE or Federal Way</u>	<u>Other Comments</u>
1	No	Join with Seattle	Needs help with HS Scholars and Tek Trek
2	No	Prefers local meetings – maybe Zoom	
3	No	Interested but mostly involved with Wesley activities	
4	No	Would help with planning meetings	
5	No	Join Seattle	Likes book group
6	Maybe Treasurer		She was sent Bylaws and officer list
7	No	Maybe Seattle, but lives in Tacoma	Likes book groups
8	No	Prefers Highline, but would consider Seattle	
9	No	Join Seattle	Likes Seattle coffee group
10	Newsletter	Join Seattle	Likes Seattle book and coffee groups
11	No	Merge with another branch	Prefers branch with sustainable membership
12	No	No preference. More aligned with Seattle	Important to keep book groups
13	No	Merge with Seattle or SE King County	Keep Highline members together for friendship
14	No	Join closest branch – Maybe Federal Way	
15	Maybe Treasurer	Merge with Seattle if Highline is dissolved	Problems with Saturday meetings
16	No	Seattle	Already member of Seattle branch
17	No	Not an “online” person	Thinks it would be hard for older members to drive to other branch meetings

18	No	Merge with Seattle	Keep Highline book groups	
19	No	Maybe Federal Way		
20	No	Might join SE King County	Keep Highline book groups	
21	No	Still interested in keeping Highline	Due to health issues no changes in participation	
22	Yes	Keep Highline	Hopefully will be able to meet again when vaccinated against Covid	
23	No	Dual membership with Seattle	Feels younger women too busy to join clubs like ours.	
24	No	Not interested in other branches	Does not want group to change. Likes our group	
25	Lesser role	Would like to see group keep together or move to SE or Renton	Willing to help out and continue board meetings at her office	
26	No	Would like Highline to continue or join SE	Not interested in joining Seattle. Hard to make decision right now	
27	No	Dual member with Seattle but closer to Federal Way	Concerned about future of Highline High School Scholars if we merge	
28	Maybe	Dual member with Seattle. Willing to drive others to Seattle	Grande finale at local venue. Continue donating to HS Scholars	
29	No	Maybe Seattle	Hate to see our branch dissolve	
30	No longer	Close branch. Willing to join another branch	Current board has done well to wonderful job to keeping up the branch over these years	
31	No	Close branch. Would join another branch	Would like to see book clubs continue. A year from now answers might be different	
32	No	Would hope to stay together. May not join another branch	Leadership group has been excellent	
33	No	Seattle dual member	If people don't step up, should close	
34	No	Not able to drive to meetings any more	Enjoyed branch very much. Was very active when times were different.	

General conclusions:

34 participated in the survey

Only three members were interested in taking any leadership roles.

Many would like to keep branch but not interested in taking leadership roles. i.e. board position, committee role

Many are willing to merge with or join other branches such as Seattle, Federal Way, SE King County or Renton.

Most are uncertain of the future.

Please let us know if you have any further comments or ideas to share?



Highline Members Joining the Seattle Branch for On-line Monthly Meetings.

Several of our Highline members have joined some of the Seattle interest groups, such as the West Seattle & Points South on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The current theme is “Writing triggers”. Seattle invites all Highline members to the monthly Zoom programs, generally on the third Saturday. However the next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23rd.

Myths and Misinformation: Contemporary Immigration Politics in the U.S., presented by **Sophia Wallace**, UW Associate Professor of Political Science. **Tuesday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Local Events

Highline Board Meeting – –Friday, February 19th at 10 am per Zoom

Highline Branch Membership Meetings – No in-person meetings scheduled until further notice.

Morning and Afternoon Book Discussion Groups – per Zoom

Morning at 9:30 am

February 26 – *The Line Becomes a River*, by Francisco Cantú

March 26 – *The New Silk Roads*, by Peter Frankopan

April 23 – *Moment of Lift*, by Melinda Gates

(Members will be selecting books for the remaining year at the February meeting)

Afternoon at 3:00pm

February 1 - *A Better Man*, by Louise Penny

March 1 – *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson

April 6 – *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson

May 3 – *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett

June 7 – *The Other Alcott*, by Elise Hooper

July 5 – *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*, by Bill Bryson

August 2 – *Hell and Other Destinations*, by Madeleine Albright

September 6 – *The Manifesto for the Moral Revolution*, by Jacqueline Novogratz

The Line Becomes A River: Dispatches from the Border

by Francisco Cantú

For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Haunted by the landscape of his youth, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners are posted to remote regions crisscrossed by drug routes and smuggling corridors, where they learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive.

Cantú tries not to think where the stories go from there. Plagued by nightmares, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the whole story. Searing and unforgettable, *The Line Becomes a River* makes urgent and personal the violence our border wreaks on both sides of the line.

Goodreads

AAUW Highline Branch Newsletter
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January 28, 2021, by Kate Nielson, AAUW

This morning, the bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, and it will be introduced in the U.S. Senate tomorrow. We've worked for 24 years to pass this critical bill, and this is the year we'll succeed. We need to mobilize quickly to ensure we get it across the finish line.

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on causing record unemployment and housing crises, women and the families who depend on their income are disproportionately bearing the brunt. And the compounding injustices of sexism and racism are exacerbating these issues by widening the already yawning gender pay gap. This is unacceptable, and it is past time for Congress to act to stop it.

Tomorrow marks the 12th anniversary of the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. What more fitting tribute than to continue that legacy by joining us to [demand equal pay now](#)?

- Contact your members of Congress
- Write a Letter to the Editor
- Celebrate Lilly Ledbetter on social media

Despite existing federal and state equal pay laws, the gender pay gap persists, impacting millions of women and their families. We need to update our laws to ensure all workers can take home a fair paycheck.

Congress must ensure all women have the tools they need to challenge discrimination and all employers have the incentives they need to comply with the law.

Equal pay for equal work is a widely popular principle. Congress must act like it. Urge your members of Congress to do their part by cosponsoring and supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act today!