

October 2024

DESERT BREEZE



Las Vegas (NV) Branch

American Association of University Women

October MEETING

Saturday, October 19, 2024

11:30 AM

THE SUMMIT

2215 Thomas Ryan Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89134

Come join us at The Summit. The cost is \$25.00 per person. The price includes the room fee, technical equipment, lunch from the menu, a drink. Guests are welcome, so bring a friend. No reservations are needed.

Guest Speaker

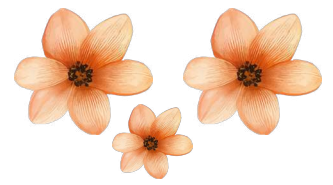
Dr. LuAnn Holmes

Director & City Clerk

City of Las Vegas

Civic Engagement Initiative





PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

What a way to start the new AAUW year. We had a great meeting in September with many local candidates speaking. There are many issues this year that impact women and the upcoming elections are important for us to be informed and to know where candidates stand on issues that are priorities for AAUW. All the candidates attending were women running for office. Many of the judge candidates spoke about the lack of resources and services for women and girls in the community.

Due to the generosity of our members, we donated a total of 32 sleeping bags to Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada for their Community Troop camping event. This supports girls that may have never had the opportunity to experience a camping event and the out of doors. The Girl Scouts have extended a great thank you to our members who donated one or more sleeping bags.

This year we have distributed our directory electronically to our members. A small number of printed directories will be available on request at meetings this fall.

Janis and Marilyn



**Guest Speaker
Dr. LuAnn Holmes**



Dr. LuAnn Holmes serves as the City Clerk for the City of Las Vegas, bringing over 26 years of experience in the public sector. In her role, she ensures that southern Nevada's local democratic processes adhere to state statutes, city charters, and local ordinances. Her responsibilities are wide-ranging, encompassing strategic and business management, technology implementation, records management, public meeting administration, and legal compliance. Dr. Holmes is also entrusted with overseeing municipal elections and preserving the city's historical documents and artifacts.

As City Clerk, Dr. Holmes directs the operations of the Office of the City Clerk (OCC) to ensure integrity and transparency within municipal governance. Under her leadership, the OCC manages three critical divisions: Administrative and Meeting Services, Election and Civic Engagement Services, and Enterprise Records Management. The OCC is responsible for maintaining public records, overseeing elections, and ensuring adherence to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, while offering legislative support to the City Council and numerous other public boards and committees.

Dr. Holmes is passionate about enhancing local democratic processes, particularly in areas such as public transparency, election integrity, and civic engagement. She is committed to ensuring that Las Vegas' diverse population has accessible and equitable pathways to participate in the democratic process. As the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session approaches, her office is focused on key policy areas including public records, elections, open meeting laws, and the protection of personally identifiable information.

Her dedication to public service and deep knowledge of procedural governance make Dr. Holmes a vital leader in maintaining the accountability and efficiency of Las Vegas' municipal government.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND GROWING OUR BRANCH

Let's grow our branch membership. Every member can be a recruiter. Most individuals join AAUW and other organizations because someone they know told them about the organization and invited them to a meeting or activity.

We challenge all our members to bring guests to our meetings and activities, so we can grow our membership with individuals who support the mission and work of AAUW.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals now occur throughout the year. While most of our branch members have June 30 membership expiration dates, our newer members may have a membership renewal date that occurs in a different month. The Membership Directory included each member's renewal dates this year.

Beginning In April, members that have renewal dates of May and June will begin receiving monthly email notices from AAUW regarding renewing your membership. There will be a link to renew, using a credit card, or you may still send a check to our treasurer, Letti Dowell (see Letti's address below).

Members will begin receiving renewal notices approximately three months prior to their renewal date and will continue to receive them through the grace period, which is three months after the renewal date or until the member renews their membership. After the three-month grace period, members that have not renewed their membership are dropped from the membership.

All members with May - September renewal dates should be sure to renew their membership no later than August 31, to ensure that your membership does not lapse and so we can be sure to include you in our membership directory for 2024-2025.

Membership dues remain at \$98 for branch members, \$18.81 for student affiliate members and \$17 for Honorary Life Members.

Honorary Life Members should send their membership dues of \$17 to Letti Dowell, Treasurer. Renewing members may also send a check to Letti to renew their membership. Letti's address is: 9633 Gavin Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89145.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

While we hold our annual fund-raising event at our November meeting, we want to remind you that donations can be made throughout the year.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund, checks should be sent to the Public Education Foundation, 4505 South Maryland Parkway, MS 1077, Las Vegas, NV 89154. Be sure to designate that the check is for AAUW Las Vegas Scholarships. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift.

You can also donate online to our Scholarship Fund at www.thepef.org. Again, be sure to indicate that your donation is for AAUW Las Vegas Scholarships.

Non-Deductible contributions can also be made at any time by writing a check payable to AAUW Las Vegas. Checks can be given to our treasurer, Letti Dowell, at any meeting or mailed to her at 9633 Gavin Stone Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89145.



AAUW NOVEMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 16, 2024 11:30 AM SUMMIT RESTAURANT

Please contact any member of the committee to help her with the AAUW Scholarship Fundraiser. Marian Stanton needs baskets and items for the fundraiser. Please bring them to the October meeting. The committee members are Marian Stanton, Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert, Afi Bruce, and Letti Dowell. Feel free to contact them if you have donations or any questions.

INTEREST GROUPS

- **Bridge:** Cam Usher (702-456-0702)
- **Book Club:** Kathryn Robinson (702-458-1747)
- **Out to Lunch Bunch:** Janis Schoen (516-376-9856)

OUT TO LUNCH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

LOCATION TBA

AT 1:00 PM

**CONTACT JANIS SCHOEN
BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024
516-376-9856 (CALL OR TEXT)
AAUWSCH@GMAIL.COM (EMAIL)**



**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**



GIRL SCOUTS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

The Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada is thankful for the generous donation of **32 sleeping bags** that Las Vegas Branch members donated. Now all of the girls who signed up for the overnight camping experience Taste of C.A.M.P. will be able to attend.



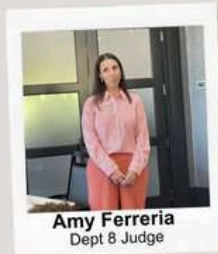
Public Policy Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert



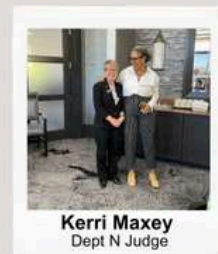
Hello Ladies,

Thank you to all the candidates, AAUW members, both long-standing and new, and AAUW, Las Vegas Scholarship Recipients for joining us at our September 21, 2024, luncheon! We had a wonderful turnout and gained valuable insights from the candidates. I was deeply moved by the important work shared by our women candidates regarding the urgent inequalities faced by girls, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals within our justice system. Their passionate discussions on domestic violence, public safety, and other critical issues affecting women were echoed by candidates running for various local offices.

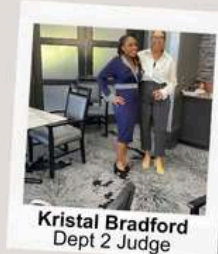
As a reminder, it is essential to review all parts of the ballot—especially down-ballot races, where many of these key contests are listed. Local races play a vital role at the community level and in influencing broader policy up to the federal stage. These compassionate, powerful women demonstrate the change we can achieve when we unite and work together, as the AAUW proudly promotes!



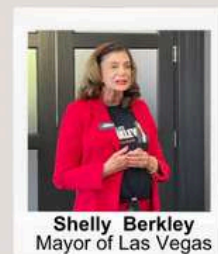
Amy Ferreria
Dept 8 Judge



Kerri Maxey
Dept N Judge



Kristal Bradford
Dept 2 Judge



Shelly Berkley
Mayor of Las Vegas



Dr. Monica Larson
Henderson City Council



Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Clark County Commissioner



Jessica Smith-Peterson
Dept 4 Judge



Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Clark County Commissioner



Cynthia Dustin-Cruz
Dept 5 Judge



Shelly Berkley
Mayor of Las Vegas



Alexandra Beth McLeod
Dept 27 Judge



Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Clark County Commissioner



Las Vegas - Local Candidates' Forum September 21, 2024

For more information, see the candidates' websites below:

- **Alexandra Beth McLeod**, Judge District Court 27 - <https://www.votemcleod.com>
- **Amy Ferreira**, Dept. 8 Judge - <https://www.ferreiraforjudge.com>
- **Judge Cynthia Dustin-Cruz**, Judge Dept 5 - www.cruz4judge.com
- **Kerri Maxey**, Candidate for Family Judge, Dept. N - www.maxey4judge.com
- **Kristal Bradford**, Judge Dept. 2
<https://clarkcountybar.org/2024-judicial-candidate-kristal-bradford/>
- **Marilyn Kirkpatrick**, Clark County Commissioner - District B <https://marilynkirkpatrick.com>
- **Dr. Monica Larson**, Henderson City Council -Ward 2, <https://votedrmonicalarson.com>
- **Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod**, County Commissioner - <https://www.shannonfornevada.com>
- **Shelley Berkley**, Mayor of Las Vegas - <https://www.berkley4mayor.com>

AAUW, Las Vegas Branch Guest Speaker

Mark your calendars for a special guest speaker at our **October 19, 2021**, luncheon! I'm excited to announce that my dear friend and esteemed colleague, **Dr. LuAnn Holmes, DPP, MMC, COP, Director, and City Clerk of Las Vegas**, will be joining us to present her groundbreaking research on civic engagement in Las Vegas. As we all know, democracy is constantly evolving, and with it, how we engage with our communities.

Dr. Holmes' presentation, **City of Las Vegas, Civic Engagement Initiative**, will offer insightful perspectives on these shifts and share actionable steps we can take to make a difference. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can play a more active role in shaping the future of our city. Join us for an inspiring and informative afternoon!

Keep an eye out for the following AAUW-related initiatives:

NEVADA

Nevada Question 6, Right to Abortion Initiative (2024)

Nevada Question 6, the Right to Abortion Initiative, is on the ballot in Nevada as an initiated constitutional amendment on November 5, 2024.

A "yes" vote supports providing for a state constitutional right to an abortion, providing for the state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, except where medically indicated to "protect the life or health of the pregnant patient."

A "no" vote opposes providing for a state constitutional right to an abortion.

National Policy Updates

With Congress returning from recess, Meghan Kessel (AAUW, National) discussed federal appropriations, Title IX, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Gender Pay Gap

The U.S. Census Bureau has released new pay gap data. **Overall, women working full time in the U.S. make 84% of what men do. Collectively, working women lose out on more than \$500 billion a year.** The gender pay gap exists for every age group and widens over a woman's lifetime. It increases throughout a woman's work life and is widest for women ages 45–64.

The 2025 Equal Pay Day Calendar will be shared at the end of the year.

Voter Engagement

Interested in engaging voters? AAUW National has resources. www.aauw.org/itsmyvote

- AAUW voter registration portal and trainings: www.aauw.org/itsmyvote
- Request It's My Vote! stickers, signs, and more: Upcoming AAUW Advocacy Activity and Events Form
- Interested in letter campaigns? AAUW-NJ uses actionnetwork.org for emails and letter campaigns (it costs \$10/month).

National is researching head-to-head voter guides for key congressional races: AZ-01, AZ-06, AZ Senate; IL-17; MI-10, MI-07, MI-08, MI Senate; PA-17, PA-10, PA-07, PA-08, PA Senate; WA-03; WI-03, WI Senate.

Completed guides are posted to the AAUW Action Fund website.

Equal Rights Amendment

The 14th Amendment ensures equality for MEN, but it remains silent on women.

According to Meghan, the Discharge Petition in Congress still needs to be four signatures short of the requisite number to have a vote. All the Democrats in the House of Representatives have signed the petition. We still need to encourage Republican members to sign to get this for a vote.

It's challenging to see the 118th Congress getting enough signatures to vote on this at this point in the political calendar. However, that is not the only path forward for the ERA. It's incumbent on all of us to keep educating our communities about gender not being in the U.S. Constitution.

We need to continue to build political will for Congress, the President, and ultimately the Archivist, to take action on this critical measure!

An Early Look at Diversity Post-Affirmative Action

Colleges are slowly releasing demographic data for the Class of 2028, giving a glimpse of the Supreme Court ruling's impact on racial diversity. The results are decidedly mixed.

From Inside Higher Ed:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/09/06/early-look-racial-diversity-post-affirmative-action>

Get the facts: The truth about **Project 2025** prepared by the Center for American Progress. Learn how Project 2025 affects veterans, parents, seniors, workers, and rural America.

<https://my.americanprogress.org/page/email?mid=367b8c64b15a40a0a243e2b465da00fb>

**Join me on the Program of Public Policy Committees.
As always, contact me with any feedback or questions.
Happy Halloween!
Dr. Evelyn, Thompson-Hilbert, DDP (evelyn.aauw@gmail.com)**

Home Tour

November 2, 2024

1 - 4 PM



Celebrate Boulder City's

47th Annual Home Tour!

Visit unique and historic homes

\$20 tickets available after 10/14/24

From Boulder Dam Hotel and AAUW members

All proceeds benefit scholarships for local students continuing a college education

The Branch is celebrating its 85th Anniversary, this year!

Special Announcements



Birthdays

Brianna Wallace	10/1
Cynthia Maxwell	10/11
Lisa Hahn	10/15
Janis Schoen	10/23
Nora Wieland	10/23
Carol Lomen	10/25
Claudia Merrill	10/27
Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert	10/28
Caroline PUNCHES	11/2
Judith VanCleaf	11/17

AAUW Meetings

October 19	The Summit
November 16	The Summit

Board Meeting

October 22
November 19

Officers & Committee Chairs 2023 - 2025

Co-Presidents: Janis Schoen & Marilyn Zimmerman
Vice President Membership: Shirley Hills
Vice President Programs : Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert
Secretary: Afi Bruce
Treasurer: Letti Dowell
Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Shirley Hills & Judy Ingham
Public Policy: Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert
Newsletter: Judy Ingham
Scholarships: Marilyn Zimmerman & Shirley Hills
Sunshine: Marian Stanton

Mission

Gender Equity
Economic Security

Values

Intersectional
Inclusive
Intergenerational
Empowering

Focus

Economic Security
Education
Advocacy