

AAUW meetings with the Board of Supervisors – April 2026

AAUW Marin Branch Public Policy Team

Cherie Sorokin, Chair

Barbara Strong

AAUW Advocacy in Marin

Cherie and Barbara attended all five meetings with individual supervisors:

District 1 Mary Sackett and her Aide Crystal Martinez

District 2 Brian Colbert

District 3 Stephanie Moulton-Peters

District 4 Dennis Rodoni

District 5 Eric Lucan and his Aide Leslie Weber

We were joined by branch members who live in their supervisor's district: Dottie Burk, Mardi Diamond, Nancy Major and Chris O'Neill. Dianne Sheridan was unable to attend.

Summary of our AAUW meetings with the Board of Supervisors – April 2026

We had outreach meetings with each of the five members of the Marin County Board of Supervisors in April 2026. The purpose of these group conversations in person was to acquaint them with the AAUW, our mission and key activities. We emphasized the importance of ensuring the actions they take as supervisors, are supportive of Marin's women and girls lives and their ability to advance.

We shared our interests in the areas of

- Educational opportunities and availability of loans, grants and scholarships for women and girls.
- Equity in opportunities for sports in high school.
- Increased availability and affordability of childcare for working moms and all parents/caregivers.
- Addressing the pay gap and making sure county, local agencies and political entities aren't underpaying women.

Topics, Key Themes and Action Items from the meetings:

1. **Pay Equity and More.** The County has been working on addressing any gender and ageism issues, despite the need to cut Diversity/Equity/Inclusion language at the grant level. With the new County Executive recently hired, he and his team have been addressing turnover and leadership issues. The county has been addressing pay equity, jobs/promotions. In September of 2025, they began to provide parental leave for all county employees.
2. **Childcare/Early Education.** Regarding the lack of childcare resources, increasingly high cost, and minimal number of providers in Marin (hundreds of families are on waitlists), there is now a *Marin County Child Care Initiative* that if passed will generate \$12.5M annually. In Marin, childcare costs more than housing. The average annual cost for

infant care in Marin is now nearly \$28,000/year, surpassing the median rent for many working families. Only about 1/3 of Marin children are fully prepared for kindergarten, highlighting a significant gap in access to high-quality early learning. The initiative, Our Kids/Our Future, will be on the November 2026 ballot. We expressed interest in AAUW assisting with this effort, for example, to help get out the vote.

3. Aging population of older women – increased need for housing options and services.

Many older women are on fixed-incomes, and even if they were able to move out of their homes, there are not the kinds of age-friendly housing units in Marin to meet this need. (smaller, one-story, ADA features, etc.) Cherie shared information about Marin Villages. The county will need more coordinated services for our increasingly older population, and to improve the housing/transportation issues that prevent essential service workers from living in Marin.

4. Overlapping and Too Many Non-Profits

- There was agreement that there are too many non-profits in Marin with overlapping goals, who are competing for the same funding dollars. College of Marin (COM) jointly with Legal Aid of Marin, is spearheading a collaboration to bring together Marin non-profits to look at ways to provide better services and opportunities to be more efficient/effective, and to look at consolidation in this era of loss of federal funding and legal challenges to the work of many non-profits. One area is Mental Health Services, looking at ways to consolidate and/or coordinate. West Marin Collaborative of 60 non-profits has a quarterly meeting and works on “collaborative grants”.
- Women-related non-profits. We heard from one of the Supervisors that The Women’s Commission is planning a Needs Assessment. Cherie noted that there are 50 women’s organizations in Marin, and suggested that instead of a Needs Assessment, perhaps The Women’s Commission, like other commissions, reflect on its current purpose and relevancy. AAUW partnered with The Women’s Commission on The Marin Women’s Hall of Fame, and for 12 years the Commission convened an annual one-day Teen Conference. It became increasingly costly, and is now on hiatus. Barbara suggested that if it is to continue, it does an Organizational Assessment, to get clarity on its reason to exist/purpose, specific vision & strategy, leadership, and go-forward plan.

5. Immigration

In February of 2026, the County of Marin established a coordinated, countywide approach to responding to immigration-related enforcement activities and their potential impacts on individuals, families, and communities. *The County of Marin De-Escalation Response Framework*, was developed by the Office of Equity and the Office of Emergency Management. The framework centers civil and human rights, transparency, equity, and trauma-informed care. It defines how the County prepares in advance, scales response actions based on impact, protects safe spaces, supports affected residents, and strengthens long-term community recovery.