

Amanda Phillips – AAUW of Michigan – Public Policy

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BIO

My interest in Public Policy has been lifelong. I always have felt that my childhood home and High School education, has sustained my interest affecting change and being a part of the public debate. Democracy depends on its' citizens maintaining a democracy and keeping it sustainable. My high school government teacher was one of those citizens. He taught us all to be active and pay attention to the decisions and policies made by our government

My undergraduate education was at Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University. My degree was in Secondary Education with a History major and minor in French Language and Literature. My teaching philosophy encouraged student participation in and awareness of public policy. I received my Master's Degree in Social Foundations from Eastern Michigan. This degree opened up the perspective of teaching from an Eco-Justice perspective. Students understand Ecology and the Environment, why not teach History with Justice for the environment and all that we take from it, in order to live Industrialized lives? It was a dynamic curriculum.

After retirement in 2010, I have remained active. I joined AAUW in 2011, something I always thought I would do when I retired. I was introduced to the Public Policy component by Deb Kennedy, who actively involved politically with both State politics and AAUW's mission. Before the 2014 election we hosted a community event with the Michigan Center, to find out what topics the electorate was interested in and wanted to see our representatives address. This was democracy in action.

My other volunteer activities have included being on the Grosse Ile Zoning Board of Appeals for nine years, and a founding member of the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, in the early 1990's. Most recently I am a lay member in the Commission on Ministry, for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

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