

## AAUW NC Board Meeting

### Public Policy Report for August 9, 2019

AAUW State Legislative Priorities and Status:

#### Equal Rights

- **Support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.**  
**Status:** As reported at the State Meeting in March, the status of the Equal Rights Amendment is not good. Despite strong co-sponsorship of the legislation by both House and Senate Democratic members, the legislation has not moved beyond introduction and committee assignment. The bills are still in Senate Rules and House Judiciary. No hearings have been held and the bills have not moved forward.

#### Economic Self Sufficiency

- **Raise the minimum wage**— *Supporting legislation bringing the minimum wage in line with the current economy.*
- **Promote equal pay policies and practices to close the gender gap** — *Supporting legislation to close the earning ratio of women and men working full time, year-round.*

**Status:** As with the ERA, several bills to either raise the minimum wage or to promote equal pay have been introduced but have not passed.

#### Education

- **Increase support for quality, locally governed public education by**
  - *Supporting legislation restoring funding to public education in North Carolina;*
  - *Opposing expansion of the school voucher program and implementing accountability measures and consequences which are comparable for public and private schools receiving state or local funding, including educational vouchers.*
  - *Developing teacher salary schedules which bring North Carolina's teacher's salaries in line with national averages.*
  - *Promoting educational opportunities for girls and women — Supporting funding for Title IX and STEM programs*

**Status:** The School Opportunity Program (Vouchers) has been expanded.

Both the General Assembly and the Governor proposed options to raise teacher's pay. Unfortunately, the options were different. The proposal from the legislature is contained in the state budget that the Governor vetoed. So far, there is no public movement on modifying the budget or over-riding the Governor's budget.  
STEM—no action.

#### Health Care

- **Support the Governor's proposal to expand Medicaid** — *Increasing the availability of health care for residents of North Carolina.*  
**Status:** Governor Cooper declared that expansion of Medicaid in NC was his highest budget priority. The General Assembly leadership remains opposed. It was not included in the proposed State Budget, causing the Governor to veto it. As said above, there is no public movement on the veto.



Other Public Policy Items:

1. AAUW NC agreed to be a co-sponsor of the ERA Billboard event for September 2019. Four billboards will focus attention on the ERA and how women are still not represented in the US Constitution.
2. AAUW NC has also worked with Women NC on passage of CEDAW in the United States. We had a table at the annual dinner for CEDAW and were well represented at the dinner.
3. AAUW NC is still participating with NC Women United, an umbrella group of organizations focused on women's issues.
4. AAUW NC has been represented in the NC Families Care Coalition which has been working on family issues such as equal pay, sick leave for all workers, expansion of Medicaid, etc.

NOTE: 2020 activities are not included in this report since they are being covered by others.

Submitted by Denny McGuire and Laura Garmendia

See also "Dollars & Democracy -  
How the State Budget Can Build  
Thriving Communities"  
[www.ncjustice.org](http://www.ncjustice.org)



**MEMO**

Date: August 8, 2019

**TO: AAUW NC Board Members**  
**RE: ERA Billboard project**  
**FROM: Jane Terwillegar, President**



J. Denny McGuire, Co-Chair, Public Policy offered a proposal from the ERA -NC Alliance on July 10, 2019. The request was to join in a campaign to raise awareness of the need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina. The proposed project is to rent 4 billboards – one each in Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro and Wilmington, in high traffic locations, for one month, around the date of Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, Constitution Day. The cost of the project to be equally shared by three NC organizations: NOW, AAUW and the ERA-NC Alliance.

This proposal was discussed by Board members in two separate conference calls, 4 PM on Friday, July 12 and 7:30 PM, Sunday, July 14 and the President called for a vote from Board members by 10 AM on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ten votes were received, all affirmative. The expense for the ERA Billboard project was approved by electronic vote on Monday, July 15, 2020. The final cost for the AAUW NC share in this project was \_\_\_\_\_.



**From:** J. Denny McGuire jmcguire11@nc.rr.com  
**Subject:** AAUW NC ACTION NEEDED--ERA Billboard Campaign  
**Date:** July 10, 2019 at 8:56 AM

**To:** Jane Terwillegar jcterwillegar@gmail.com, Wendy Haner wendyhaner@icloud.com, Judy Balsanek jbalanek@sbcglobal.net, curtismargaret@msn.com, Christi Whitworth christi.whitworth@gmail.com, Kathy Pearre pearre.kathy@gmail.com, Elaine Morehead georgiehug@gmail.com, nancy.e.shoemaker@gmail.com, vwadamson2020@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Laura Garmendia laurag56@gmail.com, Denny McGuire jmcguire11@nc.rr.com

Good morning,

AAUW NC has been asked by the ERA – NC Alliance to join it and North Carolina NOW in a statewide effort to raise awareness of the campaign to put women in the Constitution by passing the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina. The new effort involves renting of four billboards—one each in Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro and Wilmington in high traffic locations. The four billboards will be posted for approximately one month, starting Sept 17. Why September 17? It is Constitution day and we want women in the constitution.

Of course, there is a cost to us to participate. This email is to explain the idea and to ask for your support. Attached is a copy of the proposal and a draft of the proposed billboard. We are on a tight deadline of July 17<sup>th</sup> due to the time needed by the billboard vendor to print and install the billboards.

We know this is a complicated and relatively expensive matter for the Board to digest in a relatively short period of time. However, passage of the ERA in North Carolina has been on the Board Legislative Priorities list for several years. As you know, only one more state is needed to pass the ERA.

Jane Terwillegar suggested that we send the basic information to you today and follow it up with a poll for a conference call so you can ask questions prior to the board voting on the expenditure. Our Treasurer Wendy Hamer asked several good questions about this effort. Her questions and Jane's responses will also be sent to you shortly.

Please feel free to email me or Jane if you have any immediate questions. Please read the proposal and look for a Doodle poll in your email.

Thank you.

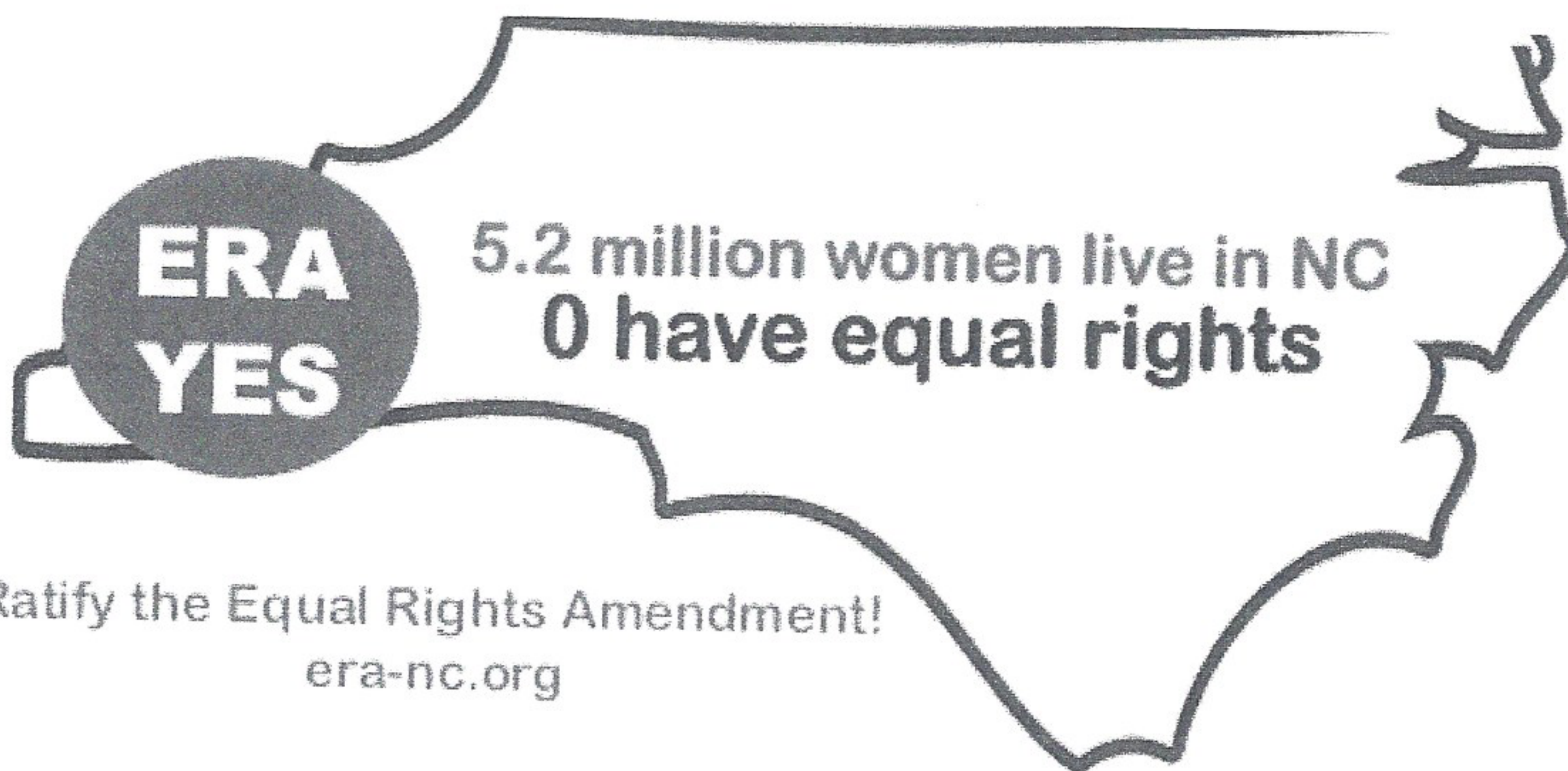
Denny McGuire, Co-Chair for Public Policy and Advocacy  
Laura Garmendia, Co-Chair for Public Policy

Denny McGuire  
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Constitution Day  
ERA Bil...s.docx





Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment!  
[era-nc.org](http://era-nc.org)



U.S. Census Bureau Data 2016