

There were six articles written for The Branch, covering September 2019 through May 2020. The following issues were covered:

- *Recent pay equity for NYS signed into law by Governor Cuomo;
- *A summary of the message from AAUW's CEO, Kimberly Church, regarding policy priorities to watch for from candidates for the up-coming Presidential primaries and election in November;
- *Efforts being taken to complete the ratification of the ERA now that the state of Virginia became the 38th state to vote "yes"; the membership was urged to call their federal representatives to support all measures to support final ratification;
- *Report of the UN's Gender Social Norms study and the lack of progress world-wide. Suggestions for how to become more active in our local communities;
- *Changes in the NYS Presidential primary due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the importance of using absentee ballots;
- *The importance of reading and understanding the Public Priorities of AAUW, and using the Two-Minute Activist to become locally active.

In addition, during the fall local elections, the membership was alerted through special notifications about deadlines for changing registrations, and early voting. At the February Board meeting we (Public Policy co-chairs) presented a proposal to support all efforts of Congress to remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA to ensure its final ratification. The Board approved. Alerts were sent out through our web site encouraging everyone to complete the 2020 Census forms quickly after they were received.

After the pandemic shut down all public gatherings, we reached out to the Dutchess County Board of Elections to receive all notifications regarding the Presidential primary and November election. Members were informed that every registered voter could use absentee ballots. Later, the Democratic Presidential primary was cancelled by Governor Cuomo, but was reinstated by Court order, then appealed. Unless it is overturned, that primary will take place on June 23rd.