

# ASK THE CANDIDATES

## Introduction

Ohio's children are our future.

The investments we make in them are investments in the future of our state. The people we elect fall will make important choices that impact our state over the next few years.

As we get closer to the election it is essential that children are prioritized by our elected officials. As candidates host in-person, virtual, or tele-town halls and other campaign events, you can use some of the questions in this resource to ensure that candidates are thinking about what is best for our children. You can also pose these questions to candidates as you connect with them on social media, via email, or by contacting their campaign office to keep our children at the top of the candidates' policy agenda.



## Healthy Development

Children who are born healthy, grow, and develop in healthy environments, and have access to quality healthcare services have better physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lives.

- 1** *What will you do to ensure all pregnant women have access to high-quality prenatal care?*
- 2** *How will you work to expand coverage and access to high-quality healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP programs for young children, pregnant moms, and their families?*
- 3** *How will you support timely developmental screenings and early interventions for early identification and treatment for young children faced with developmental delays?*
- 4** *What will you do to increase access to programs that build resilience and mitigate the impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)?*
- 5** *What efforts do you plan to support and implement in order to protect young children from lead hazards where they live and learn?*
- 6** *What do you think needs to be done to increase access to voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services and Early Head Start? How will you support this?*

## Quality Early Learning

The early years of development lay the foundation for all learning that happens later in life. When children have access to high-quality learning experiences in the earliest years, they have better long-term health, education, and economic outcomes.

- 1** *How will you support increasing access to affordable, high-quality child care options for families?*
- 2** *What will you do to support child care programs in continuing to improve the quality of care they provide to children and families?*
- 3** *How will you work to ensure the families who need it most have access to high-quality preschool and Head Start programs?*

## Empowered Families

Families are the first and most important teachers and caregivers. A family's economic and environmental stability plays a critical role in a child's early development. When families have the resources and support to provide adequate care and enrichment during the earliest years, children can grow and thrive.

- 1** *What parenting and family support systems do you support that are designed to prevent and treat behavioral and emotional problems in young children so they can grow in their families, schools, and communities?*
- 2** *How will you help stabilize families so that there are fewer young children engaged in the child welfare system?*
- 3** *How will you ensure that young children in state custody, living in foster or kinship placements, experience a continuum of care and supported transitions?*
- 4** *What do you plan to implement in order to foster economic stability for families with young children?*