



2024 Candidate Questionnaire

Ohio's youngest children face significant challenges and needs, and yet they are often overlooked and ignored. They have no voice and no vote. We know that the first few years of a child's life can either support or inhibit their ability to thrive and contribute successfully to society. Now, more than ever, we need early childhood champions that are committed to laying a strong foundation for our youngest children in Ohio.

Ohio Kids First is surveying all candidates for Ohio's House and Senate to learn more about their views on the issues that matter most to babies, toddlers and preschool-aged children. As a candidate for the House or Senate, we invite you to complete the following questionnaire.

Ohio Kids First is a 501(c)(4) committed to ensuring that every infant, toddler, and preschooler in Ohio has a strong start to life and is set up for success in school, career and beyond. With this questionnaire, we are identifying and evaluating legislative leadership for Ohio's youngest citizens and their families. We look forward to publishing the results of this survey so voters and families with young children know where you stand on these issues that they value and are prepared to act on.

General Information

Young children are your future constituents, workforce, neighbors and community builders, but today they have no vote. 7% of Ohio's population was 5 or younger in 2019. That's nearly one out of every 14 Ohioans. Ohio's 823,445 infants, toddlers and preschool age children are counting on you to be their voice in imagining and acting on a better future for them, their families and this Great State.[1] So tell us about who you are:

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate's Legislative District: _____

Preferred Contact (if different than candidate): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

[1] 2019 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, [Groundwork Ohio's Early Childhood Dashboard Preview](#) (2022)

1 Why are you running as a candidate for the Ohio House or Senate and what are the top three issues that you hope to lead on if elected?

2 Do you consider quality child care a workforce issue?

3 Do you support more state government action to eliminate barriers for parents to work, including through increased access to affordable, high-quality child care options for families with infants, toddlers and young children?

Support Oppose

Optional further explanation (please keep to 25 words):

4 Do you support more state government action to improve Ohio's kindergarten readiness scores from 65% of all children not being ready to enter the K12 system?

Support Oppose

Optional Further Explanation (please keep to 25 words):

5 Do you support more state investment for high quality learning experiences for all children ages 0-5 to address the lack of affordable and accessible options in Ohio?

Support Oppose

Optional Further Explanation (please keep to 25 words):

- 6** During Ohio's last Biennial Budget, Governor DeWine proposed an increase for publicly funded child care eligibility. How would you support a proposed increase in state investment so that all young children 0-5 can benefit?
- 7** In Ohio, 6.9 babies per 1,000 do not survive until their first birthday. Do you consider infant and maternal mortality an issue that needs to be addressed by the state legislature?
- 8** Tell us more about your support for Ohio's mothers, babies, toddlers and young children and ideas you have for improving outcomes for these populations.

THANK YOU. On behalf of young children, families and voters across the state, thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in completing this survey.

##

Ohio Kids First is a 501(c)(4) committed to ensuring that every infant, toddler, and preschooler in Ohio has a strong start to life and is set up for success in school, career and beyond. We look forward to publishing the results of this survey so voters and families with young children know where you stand on these issues that they value.

Please email your completed questionnaire to Rachel Selby at rachel@ohiokidsfirst.org, or fill it out online at <http://bit.ly/4dr5Y6x>